[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET (*contd.*)

PRESIDENT: We will now resume the general discussion on the budget.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir, in rising to make my observations on the 1099 budget, I wish first to congratulate Mr. George on the success which has attended his labours in the preparation of the estimates. It is a matter for great satisfaction and pride to us that our colleagues on the Standing Finance Committee have been enabled to study the budget most thoroughly, and that the budget is one, in the production of which, as Mr. George assures us, both the Government and the representatives of this Council jointly laboured. I have no doubt that this side of the House will be greatly benefited by the knowledge which our friends Messrs. K. Paramesvaran Pillai, G. Paramesvaran Pillai and T. K. Velu Pillai have gained at the source itself, and that our discussions have been immensely facilitated by the light they were in a position to throw on many a difficult aspect connected with the regulation of the finances of the State. The speech of the Financial Secretary introducing the budget, which I have had the pleasure of listening to, is a lucid exposition of the policies and principles which have guided the framing of the budget for the coming year. In these days of deficits all over India, it is highly gratifying that the transactions of the current year would give us a surplus of over Rs. 7½ lakhs and that the estimates of 1099, would result in a surplus of over two lakhs. Still I am not disposed to call the budget a prosperity budget. I say this, because, when I run my eyes down the figures and compare them, and also look into the explanations for the variations, I find that, so far as the 1098 revised estimates are concerned, the large excess of revenue over expenditure represents, on the side of receipts, a windfall of nearly five lakhs of rupees under salt, the veriest necessity of life, an undesirable increase of over two lakhs of rupees under intoxicating drugs, and an unsatisfactory decline of about two lakhs of rupees under forest; while on the side of expenditure, there is a dimunition of over Rs. 1½ lakhs under Education—for which, looking at the explanation, I am not sorry —a decrease of over half a lakh under Agriculture and Industries, on which I could not congratulate the Government, for, I think more should have been spent on these departments; and finally a fall of over a lakh of rupees in respect of buildings and communications. For the year 1099, the 1098 figures on the revenue side are found reproduced, more or less; while as regards expenditure, it is noted that it is proposed to augment it in the case of education and public works. But for the uncertainty as to the continuance of the enhanced duty on salt after February, we would have got from the people another six lakhs more by their consumption of the commodity. This would yield a surplus much in excess of that of the current year. But I would not at all regret if the enhancement

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of the salt tax happens to be cancelled next year. I should be most glad to see the duty restored to its former level, much to the relief of the people.

I now proceed to consider the budget in some detail. As regards the revised figures for the current year, there is an excess of Rs. 2½ lakhs under receipts, and a fall of Rs. 4 lakhs under expenditure. But for the higher salt tax, the year would have closed with a deficit. It is contended, however, that even without the doubling of the salt tax, there would still have been an appreciable surplus, but for (1) the expenditure provided for under salaries and establishments in excess of the actual requirements, and (2) the additional grants mainly under non-votable items. I find it difficult to follow the reasoning. The increased provision under these two heads was either necessary or unnecessary. If necessary, there would be a deficit, even in spite of a highly 'salted' revenue. If unnecessary, then it is clear that the avoidable provision was made because the Government secured five lakhs under salt. As a counterpoise to this excess revenue, so unexpectedly obtained, a serious departure from the previous practice was initiated, and enhanced provision was made under salaries and establishment. This was done, not on the ground of necessity, not because the procedure hitherto required it, but because there was money enough to be put into the other side of the balance. It is clear then that an uncalled-for provision was made in the budget, because the Government got about Rs. 5 lakhs under salt. This is a feature which runs through the budget and it is worth while looking into the grounds alleged for it. From the memorandum, I find the provision for leave allowances "was not the practice in previous years, the extra expenditure being either met from savings or treated as inevitable charge and not covered by budget grant at all." The memorandum says that "specific provision for leave allowances is necessary in future as the grants originally voted by the Council cannot be exceeded without the grant of additional funds by it." This, I venture to say, does not depict the state of affairs completely. It would seem that all leave allowances are voted by the Council, that the Government have to wait for fresh grants, when the original grants are found insufficient, and that to avoid inconvenience and delay, excess provision is made. I do not think that the Council can touch a cash of the leave allowances included under non-votable salaries; and these allowances, consume, I believe, a good portion of the total. If so, I do not understand how the Council will be asked for additional grants which it has no power to give. I shall be thankful if the Financial Secretary would remember my difficulty, and explain it in the concluding observations, if he proposes to make them. Again, it is said that provision for leave allowances is made at 5 per cent. of pay for ordinary departments and 2½ per cent. of pay for departments which enjoy periodical vacations.

Even as a tentative provision, I consider the proportions excessive, as he himself points out that a considerable portion might lapse. Moreover, the Account Office should be able to give the amounts of leave

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[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

allowances spent for a series of years, and with these, an average next to actuals could have been adopted for the budget. That would do away with the arbitrary fixing of amounts now, with the expectation of revising it a few months after.

As regards the increased provision above alluded to under non-votable items, it goes to over two lakhs of rupees, of which over Rs. 1½ lakhs are under non-votable heads, over which this House has no control. I believe most of it is distributed among the officers for salaries and allowances.

Turning to the revenues, the first thing that attracts notice is the fall of nearly two lakhs of rupees under sale of Government lands, during the year. The estimate for this item was pitched, last year, at a very high figure, and this side of the House did not fail to draw the attention of Government to it. The fall was repeated, and it is not surprising that the expectation was realised. For the next year, it is noted that an increase of a lakh of rupees over and above the current estimate is budgeted, on the contingency of improvement in the economic conditions, and the consequent large demands for *puduval* lands. I have referred to the revenue from the duty on salt. What I have to point out here is the reduction in the 1099 budget of one lakh of rupees under recoveries on account of charges incurred in the sale of salt. The reason is that under the contract for the supply and sale of salt at Alleppey, Government do not incur transport charges on account of salt sold at that depôt. I wish to bring to the notice of the Government the general impression that under the heads of revenues, more is being levied than is strictly needed to meet the charges incurred, and that in view of the doubling of the salt tax, this levy works the greatest hardship among the mass of the population. I would request the Excise Commissioner to explain the *minutae* of the amount of Rs. 2½ lakhs put down for 1098, and of Rs. 1½ lakhs for 1099. This House will, I hope, agree with me when I say that it is advisable to set the public feeling at rest in this matter. There is another point connected with salt at Alleppey. The Government do not incur the transport charges on account of the salt sold, and consequently a less amount is collected from the people. Am I to understand that the amount not collected would remain in the hands of the people, or that it would have to be parted with anyhow—not to the Government, this time, but to the contractor? It is reasonable that the contractor should recoup the expenditure incurred by him in transporting salt. But is the recovery to be at the same rate per maund, as in the case of the Government? These are matters which deserve explanation, at least in a general way.

Passing to excise, particularly abkari and opium, the fixation for the current year's budget estimate regarding license fee and duty on country liquor and toddy at Rs. 4 lakhs less than in 1097 was viewed with satisfaction by this House and the Government. It was even hinted

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that temperance was taking root. But we find that the revised estimate has exceeded the budget by over Rs. 2½ lakhs. While the decline in the budget figure was due to the less amount realised at the Abkari auction sales, the increase in the revised estimate is attributed to the fact that a good many unsold shops were taken up subsequently. That the men who kept themselves behind at first should have come forward in such large numbers, so as to enable the Government to collect a sum of two lakhs of rupees in addition, fills me with misgivings as to the future of temperance.

Government's policy in not bringing the three taluks in north Travancore held by Mr. Nadar under the independent shop system is inexplicable. If the tree-tax is low in Cochin, it is made up by a high rental which equalises the price of toddy on both sides. The change which was proposed to have been made about four years ago would have brought in a few lakhs of rupees to the Government exchequer. During the discussion of the budget last year, Mr. Krishna Aiyangar pointed out the necessity of revising the Interportal Convention, and Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai delivered an excellent lecture on the subject before a distinguished audience with the Advocate General of Madras in the chair. But very little appears to have been done in this direction.

The prospect of improvement in the forest revenue does not appear bright in view of the fact that Travancore timbers have to compete with cheap Burma teak. If the competition continues, I do not see how, as the Finance member thinks, we can possibly expect even a moderate recovery in the market. The continuing decrease of income under Railways shows that we are after all paying heavily for this civilising agency. Of course, the Finance Member has explained why the income has been diminishing. But he admits that there is no reason to anticipate any large improvement in traffic earnings or any material reduction in the working expenses.

I now pass on to notice a point or two on the expenditure side, in addition to what I have said already on the revised estimate of 1098. A saving of Rs. 4 lakhs is shown and one reason assigned for this is that the provision made for salaries and establishment was in excess of actual requirements to the extent of nearly Rs. 2½ lakhs. Why such a provision was made, I am unable to understand. For 1099, the total sum provided comes to Rs. 9 lakhs more than the allotment for the current year. Education comes in for an increase of Rs. 3¾ lakhs. In this increase the revision of salaries and establishment obviously plays a prominent part. It is not at all satisfactory to find that the increase under grants-in-aid amounts to only Rs. 85,000. Of this, only half a lakh is set apart to compensate private school managers for the fee concessions that they might grant to the depressed and other educationally backward classes. A more generous policy in the matter of helping private schools would, not only be quite in keeping with the noble object Government have in view, but would also be an appreciation of the great work that missionary and other agencies have done and are doing for education. A new

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

University is the biggest problem before the country; and it will be interesting to know how the Government propose to raise the very large sums required for the purpose.

It is with very great regret that I add in conclusion that the retrenchments so earnestly advocated by this side of the House last year have not received at the hands of the Government that attention which they deserved. It is painful to think that, with all our efforts in the past, we should find it difficult to make any headway towards inducing the Government in accepting our demands, so necessary in the best interests of the financial condition of the State. We hope to succeed at least this time.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ൧൦൯൮-ലെ പുതുക്കിയ അടങ്കലിൻപ്രകാരം ൬൯ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ നീക്കിയിരിപ്പുള്ളതായി കാണുന്നു. രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ വരവിൽ ചിലവു കഴിച്ചു കഷ്ടിച്ചുള്ള ഒരു നീക്കിയിരിപ്പു വയ്ക്കുന്നതാണ് ഒരു നല്ലതായ ആയവ്യയകത്താവിന്റെ ലക്ഷണമെന്നു കഴിഞ്ഞതവണ ആ വശത്തു നിന്നു പറഞ്ഞു കേൾക്കാൻ ഇടയായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ആ ഭരണനയപ്രകാരം ഈയാണ്ടത്തെ നീക്കിയിരിപ്പു പരിശോധിക്കുന്നതായാൽ മിസ്റ്റർ ജോജ്ജ് ആ കുറ്റത്തിൽനിന്നും രക്ഷപ്പെടുന്നതാണ്.

ഉപ്പിന്റെ വദ്ധനയാൽ യാദൃച്ഛികമായി കിട്ടീട്ടുള്ള ൫൯ ലക്ഷം രൂപായും ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളിൽ ചിലവാകാതെ വിട്ടിട്ടുള്ള ൨൯ ലക്ഷം രൂപായും ഇഞ്ചിനീയർ വകുപ്പിലെ അനുവാദം രൂപായിൽനിന്നും ചിലവാകാതെ വിട്ടിട്ടുള്ള ൧൯ ലക്ഷം രൂപായും കൂടിച്ചേർത്തു കണക്കാക്കുമ്പോൾ ൭൯ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ വരുന്നു. ൧൦൯൮-ൽ നീക്കിയിരിപ്പായി നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ൬൯ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ ഇതിൽനിന്നും കുറയ്ക്കുമ്പോൾ സാധാരണവർഷങ്ങളുടെ കണക്കിന് ഒരു ലക്ഷം രൂപാ അധികച്ചിലവായിട്ടാണ് കാണുന്നതു്. ഇതോടുകൂടി മറ്റൊരു ചിലവു കൂടി ചേർക്കേണ്ടതായി ഉണ്ടു്. സ്റ്റേഷണറി കൺട്രാക്ടുക്കു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായ തുക കണക്കാക്കിയിരുന്നതുപോലെ കടിവിലയിൽ പലർക്കും കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായ തുകകൂടി കണക്കാക്കേണ്ടതായിരുന്നു. അതിനെപ്പറ്റി കണക്കുകളിൽ കാണുന്നില്ല. കടിവിലയിൽ കൊടുക്കേണ്ട കണക്കുകൾ പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തിയിരുന്നാലും ഇല്ലെങ്കിലും അതു കൊടുത്തുതീർക്കേണ്ടതു അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. സ്റ്റേഷണറി കൺട്രാക്ടുക്കു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായ തുക സമയാസമയങ്ങളിൽ ഗവർൺമെൻറിനോടു വാദിച്ചു വാങ്ങുന്നതിനു അവർക്കു ശക്തിയുണ്ടു. കടിവില വാങ്ങാനുള്ള കക്ഷികൾക്ക് അതിനുള്ള ശക്തിയില്ലെന്നുള്ള വ്യത്യാ

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സം മാത്രമെ അതിലുള്ളൂ. കൂടിവിലക്കുടി കുടിശികതീർത്ത് ഈയാണ്ടുകൊട്ടത്തിരുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ അധികച്ചിലവു് വീണ്ടും വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുമായിരുന്നു.

ഈയാണ്ടത്തെ സ്ഥിതികൊണ്ട് ഇവിടത്തെ വരവു ചിലവുകൾ അപകടമായ നിലയിലല്ലെന്നുള്ള ബോധ്യം ബലപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നതായി മിസ്റ്റർ ജോജ്ജിന്റെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതിനു പുറമെ, ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ ഇമ്പീരിയൽ ഗവർൺമെൻറിനേയും പ്രൊവിൻഷ്യൽ ഗവർൺമെൻറുകളേയും, മറുനാട്ടുരാജ്യങ്ങളേയും താരതമ്യപ്പെടുത്തി അദ്ദേഹം സമാധാനപ്പെടുകയും ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നു. പുറമെയുള്ള ഗവർൺമെൻറുകളുടെ അധികച്ചിലവുകളും അവയെ താങ്ങാനുള്ള നികുതിവർദ്ധനകളും ഇവിടെ അതേമാതിരി ശക്തിയാടുക്കുടി വരാതിരിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ഒരു കാരണം അവിടത്തെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളും മറുചിലവുകളും അതുപോലെ ഇവിടെ സ്വീകരിക്കാത്തതു കൊണ്ടാണെന്നുള്ളതിനു സംശയമില്ലാത്തതാണ.

ഇവിടത്തെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളിൽ കാണുന്ന അനാവശ്യച്ചിലവുകളെ സൌകര്യം കിട്ടുന്ന എല്ലാ അവസരങ്ങളിലും കുറച്ചുവരുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു മിസ്റ്റർ ജോജ്ജിന്റെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇവിടത്തെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ ആവശ്യത്തിൽ വളരെ കൂടുതലാണെന്ന് അനേകകാലമായി ഗവർൺമെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഒരു സംഗതിയാണ്. അതിന്റെ ഫലമായി പല ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളും ഇടക്കാലത്തു നിറുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. അങ്ങനെ കുറച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾക്ക് ഇതുവരെ നിലവാക്കീട്ടുള്ള തുക ദുർവ്യയമാണെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കാതെ തരമില്ല. ഇതേമാതിരി കുറയ്ക്കേണ്ടതായ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ ഇനിയും ഉണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതിനു സംശയമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു അധികൃതന്മാരുടെ നിർബന്ധസ്വഭാവം അതിലേക്കൊരു പ്രതിബന്ധമായി നിൽക്കുന്നു.

ഇവിടത്തെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ ഫ ൦ ൦-ന നു ശേഷം വീതമേയാകുന്നുള്ളുവെന്നും ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഇൻഡ്യയിൽ ഫ ൦ ൦-ന ൪ ര് വീതമാകുന്നുണ്ടെന്നും കഴിഞ്ഞതവണ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുപരിഷ്കാരങ്ങളുടെ ഫലമായി ഓരോ വർഷവും ഇവിടത്തെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ വർദ്ധിക്കാതെ തരമുള്ളൂ. ഈ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ സ്ഥിതിക്ക് ഇവിടത്തെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ ഇത്രത്തോളം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ഇവിടത്തെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നതു ന്യായമാണെന്നു സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി മിസ്റ്റർ സുബ്ബയ്യർ കഴിഞ്ഞ

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

തവണ ഉപമയോടുകൂടിയതായ ഒരു സമാധാനം പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. അതായതു്, നാഴി അരി പാകം ചെയ്യുന്നതിനും ഒരു പറ അരി പാകം ചെയ്യുന്നതിനും അടുപ്പുകൾ മൂന്നുവേണമെന്നാണു്. ഒരു പറ അരി വയ്ക്കുന്നതിന് ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്ന അടുപ്പുകൾ നാഴി അരി വയ്ക്കുന്നതിനു ഉപയോഗിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതാണു. ഈ സംഗതി ആലോചിക്കാതെ അതേ അടുപ്പുകളെ നാഴി അരി വയ്ക്കാൻ ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്ന പക്ഷം അതിലേക്ക് ആവശ്യമുള്ള വിറക് അധികപ്പെടാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. അങ്ങനെയുള്ള അനാവശ്യച്ചിലവുകൾ ഇവിടത്തെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളിൽ ഉണ്ടാകാതിരിക്കണമെന്നാണു വാദിക്കുന്നതു്.

ശമ്പളങ്ങൾ കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതായാൽ കുറഞ്ഞ ശമ്പളങ്ങൾ വാങ്ങുന്ന ശേഷിമാന്മാരായ ഇവിടത്തെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ക്രൂടുതൽ ശമ്പളമുള്ള ദിക്കുകളിലേക്കു ഓടിപോകുമെന്നു് ശങ്കിക്കയും പ്രസ്താവിക്കയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. അങ്ങിനെ ഒരു ഭയത്തിന് ഇവിടെ അവകാശമില്ലാത്തതാണു്. ഇപ്പോൾ ഇവിടത്തെ പബ്ലിക്ക് സർവീസിൽ സ്ഥിതി ചെയ്യുന്ന സമർത്ഥന്മാരായ പല ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കും കിട്ടുന്ന ശമ്പളം ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഇൻഡ്യയിലെ ശമ്പളങ്ങളേക്കാൾ വളരെ കുറവാണെന്നു് ആരും സമ്മതിക്കുന്നതാണു്. എന്നിരുന്നിട്ടും അവരിൽ ആരുംതന്നെ ശമ്പളത്തിന്റെ കുറവുകൊണ്ട് ഓടിപ്പോകാൻ ആലോചിച്ചുവരുന്നില്ല. വിശേഷിച്ചും, സ്വദേശികളായ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ശമ്പളത്തെ കരുതി മാത്രം ഉദ്യോഗം കൈയേറ്റിട്ടുള്ളതായി തോന്നുന്നില്ല. കുറഞ്ഞ ശമ്പളങ്ങൾ സ്വീകരിക്കുന്നതിനും അതിൽ വേല ചെയ്യുന്നതിനും തിരുവിതാംക്രൂർകാരെ ജൂവാൻഫെർണാൻഡിസ്സിലേക്കുകൊണ്ടുപോകയൊ ജപ്പാൻരാജ്യത്തെ തിരുവിതാംക്രൂറിന്റെ സമീപത്തുകൊണ്ടുവന്നു സ്ഥിതിചെയ്യിക്കയൊ വേണ്ടതായി വരുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. പുറമെ നിന്നും വരുത്തുന്നവർക്കു ക്രൂടുതൽ ശമ്പളങ്ങൾ കൊടുക്കുമ്പോൾ, അവരെക്കാൾ പല വഴികളിലും ക്രൂടുതൽ യോഗ്യതയുള്ള സ്വദേശികൾ ആ ശമ്പളങ്ങൾ ചോദിക്കുന്നതു ന്യായവും സ്വാഭാവികവുമാണു്. ഇങ്ങനെയാണ് ഇവിടത്തെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരാൻ ഇടയായിട്ടുള്ളതു്. എന്നു മാത്രമല്ല, ഈ രാജ്യത്തുള്ള ചിലവു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിലെ മിക്കവാറും ഭരണം സ്വദേശികളല്ലാത്തവരുടെ കയ്യിലാണ് സ്ഥിതി ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളെ ഓരോന്നായി പരിശോധിക്കുന്നതായാൽ അവിടെയുള്ള ശമ്പളങ്ങളും ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളും ക്രൂടുതലായും ഓരോ വർഷവും കൂടിവരുന്നതായും കാണാവുന്നതാണു്.

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ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നതിനു മറെറാരു കാരണം കാണുന്നതു് ൨൦൦ രൂപാ ശമ്പളമുള്ള ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗത്തിനു് ൨൫൦ രൂപാ ശമ്പളമുള്ള ഒരാളെ നിയമിക്കയും ആ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനു നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള തുക നീക്കി വരുന്നതിനെ പ്രേഴ്സണൽ അലവൻസ്സായി വകവച്ചുകൊടുക്കയും ചെയ്തുവരുന്നു. ഈ നയം ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളെ അന്യായമായി വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതാണു്. ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾക്കായി യോഗ്യന്മാരായ ആളുകളെ നിശ്ചയിക്കയല്ലാതെ ആളുകൾക്കായി ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളും അവയ്ക്കായി ശമ്പളങ്ങളും നിശ്ചയിക്കുന്നതായ നയം പബ്ലിക്കു സർവീസിനെ ദുഷിപ്പിക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതിനു സംശയമില്ലാത്തതാണു്.

ഇവിടെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നതിനും വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനും കാരണമായി പറയുന്നതു പബ്ലിക്കുസർവീസിൽ കായ്ക്ഷമതയ്ക്കും സത്യസന്ധതയ്ക്കും വേണ്ടീട്ടെന്നാണു്. ഇന്നലെ എന്റെ സ്നേഹിതൻ മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കെ. നാരായണപിള്ള പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതുപോലെ ഇവിടത്തെ പബ്ലിക്കുസർവീസിൽ കടക്കാനുള്ള ഉർഘടങ്ങൾ കഴിച്ചുകൂട്ടി അവിടെ ഒരു സ്ഥലം കിട്ടികൊള്ളാമെങ്കിൽ ൪൫ വയസ്സും പിന്നീടു സൌകര്യംപോലെയുള്ള നീട്ടലുകളും കഴിഞ്ഞുകൂടുന്നതുവരെ പബ്ലിക്കുസർവീസിൽ നിന്നും ഒരു കാരണവശാലും പുറത്തു പോകേണ്ട സംഗതിയെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിക്കേണ്ട അവകാശമില്ലാത്ത നിലയിലാണു നടന്നു പോരുന്നതു്. ഈ സ്ഥിതികളിൽ ഉയർന്നതരം ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾക്ക് ആളുകളെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കുന്ന സംഗതിയിൽ വേണ്ടപോലെ ആലോചിച്ചു പ്രവൃത്തിക്കാത്തപക്ഷം പബ്ലിക്കുസർവീസിനു അത്യാവശ്യമായുള്ള കായ്ക്ഷമത ക്ഷയിച്ചുപോകുമെന്നുള്ളതാണു്. ഇങ്ങനെയുണ്ടാകുന്ന സംഗതികളിൽ ശമ്പളക്കൂട്ടുതൽകൊണ്ടു് ഒരിക്കലും കായ്ക്ഷമതയുണ്ടാകുന്നതല്ലാ. ഇതിലേക്ക് ഉത്തമദൃഷ്ടാന്തങ്ങൾ ഇന്നത്തെ പബ്ലിക്കുസർവീസിൽ ഉള്ള വിവരം ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ധാരാളം അറിവുള്ളതാണു്.

പബ്ലിക്കുസർവീസിലുള്ള സത്യസന്ധതയെപറ്റി നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ പലേ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിലും കൈയ്ക്കൂലിവളരെ കുറഞ്ഞുവരികയും അപൂർവ്വം ചിലഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിൽ കൈയ്ക്കൂലിവർദ്ധിച്ചുവരികയും ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ടെന്നുസമ്മതിക്കാതെ തരമില്ല. ഇവിടെ നിഷ്കളങ്കമായ പബ്ലിക്കുസർവീസ് ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള അതാഗ്രഹം ഗവർൺമെൻറിനുള്ളതുപോലെ അതിൻറെഫലം അനുഭവിക്കുന്നജനങ്ങൾക്കും ഉള്ളതാണു്. ചില ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിലെ ഭരണന്യൂനതകളേയും അഴിമതികളേയും ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻറെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരണമെന്നുള്ള ഉദ്ദേശത്തോടു

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

ക്രൂടിയാണ് നിയമസഭയിലെ അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥാംഗങ്ങൾ ചോദ്യങ്ങൾ അയക്കുന്നത്. അതിലേക്കു തുറന്ന ഹൃദയത്തോടുകൂടി ഗവർണ്മെൻറു മറുപടിപറയുന്നതായാൽ അഴിമതികളിൽ പലതും കുറഞ്ഞുപോകുന്നതാണ്. ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കാതെ സൂക്ഷിക്കേണ്ടത് അവരുടെകടമയാണെന്നു വിചാരിച്ചുപോരുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും പബ്ലിക്കുസർവ്വീസിനെ ദുഷിപ്പിക്കുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽ ആ നയം വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. അങ്ങനെയുള്ള ദൃഷ്ടാന്തങ്ങളും രേഖാമൂലമുള്ള തെളിവുകളോടുകൂടി ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ എത്തീട്ടില്ലെന്നുള്ള സമാധാനം പറയാൻ സൌകര്യം കിട്ടുമായിരിക്കാമെങ്കിലും ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ മനസ്സാക്ഷിയെക്കൂടിസഹായത്തിന് ആവശ്യപ്പെടാവുന്നതാണ്. ഏതായാലും അങ്ങനെയുള്ളവരെപ്പറ്റി വരുന്ന ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്ക് ആദ്യമായി തുറന്ന മറുപടികളും പറകയും അതിലും അവർ നന്നായിവരാത്തപക്ഷം പബ്ലിക്കുസർവ്വീസിൻെറ അഭിമാനത്തേയും വിചാരിച്ച് അവരെ അതിൽനിന്നും പറഞ്ഞയക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നത് ഉചിതമായ ഒരു പ്രവൃത്തിയായിതീരുന്നതാണ്.

പബ്ലിക്കുസർവ്വീസിൽ നടന്നുവരുന്ന മറെറാരുസംഗതിക്കുടി ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിക്കേണ്ടതായിരിക്കുന്നു. ചില ആഫീസുകളിലുള്ള സിൽബന്ധികളിൽ മുഴുവനുമോ, ഭൂരിപക്ഷമോ ആളുകളെ അതാതിലെ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്മാർ അവരുടെ സ്വജാതീയരെത്തന്നെ നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള വിവരം ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. ഈ ഭരണനയം ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ ജാതിസ്പർദ്ധയെ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്ന ഒരു വിഷബീജമായി തീരുന്നതാണ്. ഇത്തരം കാര്യങ്ങളെ ഗവർണ്മെൻറു ശക്തിയോടുകൂടി നിറുത്തേണ്ടതും ആ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കു അനുരൂപമായശിക്ഷകൊടുക്കേണ്ടതുമാണ്.

ഇവിടത്തെ പബ്ലിക്കുസർവ്വീസിനെ ഒരു മാതൃകാനിലയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിലേയ്ക്കു്, അതിൻെറ ഇന്നത്തെ സൂക്ഷ്മമായസ്ഥിതികളെ അനുരൂപമായവിധം അന്വേഷണങ്ങൾ നടത്തിറിപ്പോർട്ടു ചെയ്യുന്നതിന് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥാനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ അടങ്ങിയതായ ഒരു കമ്മിറി ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കേണ്ടത അത്യാവശ്യമെന്നാണ് എനിക്കുതോന്നുന്നത്.

ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ആവശ്യമായുള്ള ആഹാരസാധനങ്ങൾ കഴിയും വിധം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിന് ഇന്നത്തെ ഗവർണ്മെൻറു

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പലേ ത്രമങ്ങളും ചെയ്യുവരുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു ഞാൻ പൂർണ്ണമായി സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. ആഹാരസാധനങ്ങളിലുള്ള രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ പരാശ്രയസ്ഥിതി അനേകകാലമായി വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നതിനെ തടയുന്നതിനുപലതും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതായുണ്ട്. പുറമെനിന്നും നെല്ലും അരിയും വരുത്തുന്നതിൽ ഓരോആണ്ടിലും രൂപാ വർദ്ധിച്ചുകാണുന്നതു അതിന്റെ വിലക്രമേട്ടതൽ കൊണ്ടാണെന്നും, ആ വില ൨൦ സംവത്സരങ്ങൾക്കു മുമ്പുണ്ടായിരുന്ന വിലയിൽനിന്നും ഇപ്പോൾ ഇരട്ടിയായി വർദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും ഡാക്ടർ കുഞ്ഞൻപിള്ള പറയുന്നു. ഈ കണക്കുകളെ അടിസ്ഥാനമാക്കി കണക്കുകൾ പരിശോധിച്ചുനോക്കാം.

൧൮൭൯ മുതൽ ൧൯൨൧ വരെ ൪൨ വർഷങ്ങളിൽ അന്നത്തെ ജനസംഖ്യയായ ൨൮,൦൧,൪൩൦ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഓരോ ആണ്ടിലും ശരാശരി ൧൪,൦൦,൫൫ രൂപാ വിലയ്ക്കു അരിയും നെല്ലും വരുത്തീട്ടുള്ള കണക്കിൻ പ്രകാരം ജനസംഖ്യയിലെ ഒരാൾക്ക് ഒരാണ്ടത്തേയ്ക്കു ൧൭ ചക്രം ൭ കാശു വിലയ്ക്കുള്ള അരിയും നെല്ലും വരുത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നു.

ഇന്ന ആണ്ടു മുതൽ ഇന്ന ആണ്ടുവരെ എന്ന	ജനസംഖ്യ	ഈ ആണ്ടുകളിൽ ശരാശരി ഓരോആണ്ടിലും വരുത്തീട്ടുള്ള നെല്ലും അരിയും	ഇവിടെ വിളഞ്ഞുകിട്ടുന്ന നെല്ലു നിക്കി ജനസംഖ്യയിലെ ഒരാളിനു ഒരാണ്ടത്തേക്കു വരുത്തീട്ടുള്ള നെല്ലിന്റെയും അരിയുടേയും വില		
			രൂപാ	ചക്രം	കാശു
൧൮൭൯-൧൮൮൮	൨൮,൦൧,൪൩൦	൧൪,൦൦,൫൫൧	...	൧൭	൭
൧൮൮൯-൧൮൯൮	൩൪,൪൭,൯൮൮	൩൨,൭൦,൧൩൦	...	൩൭	...
൧൮൯൯-൧൯൫൮	൩൮,൪൩,൧൪൭	൪൩,൩൩,൮൯൮	൧	൩൭	൫
൧൯൫൯-൧൯൮൮	൮൨,൫൩,൯൪൪	൧,൨൧,൯൦,൮൦൪	൨	൨	...
൧൯൮൯-൧൯൨൧	൮൦,൪൪,൨൮൭	൧,൩൮,൩൭,൦൪൭	൪	൧൫	൮

ഈ കണക്കുകൾപ്രകാരം ഡാക്ടർ കുഞ്ഞൻപിള്ള പറയുന്ന മാതിരി കഴിഞ്ഞ ൨൦ വർഷങ്ങളിൽ ഇവിടെ വരുത്തീട്ടുള്ള അരിയുടേയും നെല്ലിന്റേയും വില ഇരട്ടിയൊ മൂന്നിരട്ടിയൊ ആയിട്ടില്ല വർദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്.

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

ആഹാരസാധനങ്ങളിൽ രാജ്യത്തിന് വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നതായ പരാശ്രയ സ്ഥിതി ഈ കണക്കുകൾ ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതാണ്. ഈ നിലയെ പരിഹരിക്കുന്നതിനു പല കാര്യങ്ങളും കൃഷിക്കാർക്ക് ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായുണ്ട്. അതിൽ ഏറ്റവും പ്രധാനമായിട്ടുള്ളവയെ വിവരിക്കാം.

(ക) കൃഷിക്കു ജലസൗകര്യമുണ്ടാക്കി കൊടുക്കുക. നെൽ മൈനർ ഇറിഗേഷൻ വേലകൾക്കു നീക്കിവച്ചിരുന്ന തുകകൾ ചിലവാക്കീട്ടുള്ളതു നീക്കി-ൽ ക, കക, ൪൦൦ രൂപയാക്കി വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചു ചിലവാക്കുകയും നൽ-ലെ ബഡ്ജറിൽ ക, ൪൯, ൫൦൦ രൂപായായി അനുവദിച്ചിരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഈ ഇനത്തിലെ ചിലവ് ഇന്നത്തെ ഗവർൺമെൻറ് ആണ്ടുതോറും വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചുവരുന്നതിൽ കൃഷിക്കാരായജനങ്ങൾക്ക് അതിയായ സന്തോഷമുള്ളതാണ്. അനേകകാലമായി ന്യായമായ മൈനർ ഇറിഗേഷൻ വേലകൾ ചെയ്യിക്കാതിരുന്ന സ്ഥിതിക്കു ഇതുപോര അതിലേക്കു മതിയാകുന്നതല്ല. നെൽകൃഷിക്കു സൗകര്യമുള്ളതായ എല്ലാ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും മൈനർ ഇറിഗേഷൻ വേലകൾ ചെയ്തീർക്കുന്നതുവരെ അതിലേക്കു കൂടുതൽതുക അനുവദിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

(ഖ) കൃഷിക്കായുള്ള ഉഴവായുധങ്ങളും, പച്ചിലവളവും, സർക്കാർവനങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും എടുക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള പ്രതിബന്ധങ്ങളെ നീക്കി കൊടുക്കുക.

(ഗ) കന്നുകാലികൾക്കു നിവൃത്തിയുള്ളിടത്തോളം മേച്ചിൽസ്ഥലങ്ങൾ കൊടുക്കുക.

(ഘ) കൃഷിവായ്പാറഗുലേഷൻപ്രകാരം കൃഷിക്കാർ കൃഷിയാവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കായി ൪൦൦ രൂപായിൽ കവിയാതെ ചോദിക്കുന്ന തുകകൾ കഴിയുംവിധം വേഗത്തിൽ അവർക്കു കൊടുക്കാൻ നിഷ്കർഷ ചെയ്യുക.

(ങ) കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ വക മുൻ ആയക്കെട്ടിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ട് അവരുടെ അനുഭവത്തിലിരിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ കഴിഞ്ഞ കണ്ടെഴുത്തിലെ നടപടിദോഷത്താൽ പുറംപോക്കു ഭൂമികളായി തീർന്നിട്ടുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ സംബന്ധിച്ച പുറംപോക്കു കേസ്സുകളെടുത്ത അവരെ സങ്കടപ്പെടുത്താതെ ആ ഭൂമികളെ ഉടമസ്ഥന്മാർക്കു വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കുക.

(ച) രാജ്യത്തിൽ ആഹാരസാധനങ്ങൾ വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരണമെന്നുള്ള ഭരണനയത്തെ ഗവർൺമെൻറു മുൻനിറുത്തി പ്രവർത്തിക്കാൻ ആലോചിക്കുന്നുഎങ്കിൽ കൃഷിക്കാരും കൃഷി ചെയ്യുന്നവരുമായ സാധാരണ

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ആളുകൾക്ക് സർക്കാർഭൂമികൾ വാങ്ങി കൈകാര്യം ചെയ്യത്തക്ക നിലയിൽ അവയുടെ തറവില, കരം ഇവ മിതമായ നിലയിലാക്കി കുറയ്ക്കുക.

ജനങ്ങളുടെ ധനാദായസ്ഥിതിയറിയാൻ ഇവിടെ കണക്കുകൾ ഒന്നുംതന്നെയില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നു. ജനങ്ങളിൽ ഭൂനികുതിയിലും മറ്റു വഴികളിലും നികുതി ഭാരങ്ങളെ ചുമത്തുമ്പോൾ അതിലേക്കുള്ള അവരുടെ ശക്തി അറിയുന്നതിനു ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു കണക്കുകൾ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കേണ്ടതു് അത്യാവശ്യമാണു്. അതില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥിതിക്കു ഭൂനികുതിയുടെ വരവിനെ ഏതെങ്കിലും നിലയിൽ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാൻ ഗവർൺമെൻറ് ആലോചിക്കുമ്പോൾ ആഹാരസാധനങ്ങളിൽ രാജ്യത്തിൻറെ പരാശ്രയനിലക്കുടി ഏറ്റവും ഗൌരവമായി ആലോചിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. സർക്കാർഭൂമികൾ വിറ്റു കിട്ടുന്ന വരവ് അടുത്ത കാലങ്ങളിൽ കുറഞ്ഞു വരികയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. ഈ ഇനത്തിലെ വരവ് ഓരോ ആണ്ടിലും കുറഞ്ഞുവരാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല എന്നു മാത്രവുമല്ലാ ഗവർൺമെൻറിൻറെ ഭൂനികുതി വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനായി മാത്രം സർക്കാർഭൂമികളെ വില്ക്കുന്ന നയം ഒരിക്കലും രാജ്യത്തിനു രക്ഷയായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല. ജനങ്ങളുടെ ആവശ്യത്തിനു് അനുരൂപമായിട്ടാണ് സർക്കാർഭൂമികളെ വില്ക്കേണ്ടതു്. എന്നല്ലാതെ സർവ്വെപാട്ടിയ നിയമിച്ചു് ഓരോ പുതുവൽ സ്ഥലങ്ങളേയും ൪-൦ ഫ ൦ -൦ ഏക്കർ വീതം ഡിമാർക്കറു ചെയ്തു് സാമാന്യം വില്ക്കാൻ വച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന മാതിരിയിൽ തയ്യാറാക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. സർക്കാർഭൂമികൾ പരിശുദ്ധ കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു സ്വത്തിനെപോലെ ഗണിക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. കാലം ചെല്ലുംതോറും ഭൂമിയുടെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾ വർദ്ധിക്കയും അതിനു് അനുരൂപമായി ക്രയവിലയിൽ വില കിട്ടുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതാണ്. അതിനാൽ സർക്കാർഭൂമികൾ വില്ക്കുന്നതിലുള്ള വരവു കുറഞ്ഞു വരുന്നതിൽ ന്യായമായി നിരാശപ്പെടുവാൻ അവകാശമുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല.

ജനങ്ങളുടെ ധനാദായസ്ഥിതി വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നതിനു് ഏറ്റവും പ്രധാനമായി സഹായിക്കുന്നതു വ്യവസായവും വ്യവസായവിദ്യാഭ്യാസവുമാണ്. അങ്ങനെയുള്ള വ്യവസായ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെ പറ്റി രണ്ടു വാക്കു പറയേണ്ടതായിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ വ്യവസായ സർവ്വെ൯ ൨-ൽ തുടങ്ങി ൯൫-ൽ അവസാനിച്ചതോടുകൂടി വ്യവസായഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു സ്ഥാപിക്കയും ഡാക്ടർ ബാക്കറെ ഡയറക്ടരായി നിശ്ചയിക്കയും ചെയ്തു. ൧൯൨൫-മുതൽ ൧൯൩൫ വരെ വ്യവസായ സർവ്വെക്കും വ്യവസായഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനുമായി ൯൨,൫൨,൫൭൦ രൂപാ ചിലവാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നു. അഞ്ചുവർഷത്തെ ജോലികളും, മൂന്നുലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം രൂപാ

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

ചിലവാക്കിട്ടുള്ളതിന്റെയും ഫലം എന്തായിത്തീർന്നു എന്നുള്ളതു് ഫ ൈ-൧ മത്തെ പ്രജാസഭാപ്രസംഗത്തിൽ യാതൊന്നും മറച്ചുവയ്ക്കാതെ ദിവാൻ ജിഅവർകൾ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതിൽനിന്നു എല്ലാവർക്കും അറിയാവുന്നതാണ. ഫ ൦ ൯ ൈ-വരെ വ്യവസായഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ ഭരണശ്രമങ്ങളിൽ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനു സമർപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള റിപ്പോർട്ടുകളെ അടിസ്ഥാനമാക്കി ഒരു സംഗതിയിലെങ്കിലും ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനു ധൈര്യമായും വ്യക്തമായും പ്രവർത്തിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതെ വിഷമിക്കയാണു് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഫ ൦ ൯൨-മേടമാസം മുതൽ മിസ്റ്റർ. ഐ. സി. ചാക്കോയെ വ്യവസായ ഡയറക്ടരായിനിയമിച്ചുഎങ്കിലും അതിൽ അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു ജോലി തുടങ്ങാൻ സാധിക്കാതെവന്നു. അതിനുള്ള കാരണം ഡാക്ടർ ബാക്കർ ജോലിവിട്ടുപോകുന്നതുവരെ അദ്ദേഹം തുടങ്ങിവച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ജോലികളിൽ ഉപേക്ഷിക്കേണ്ടവയെ ഉപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനും സ്വീകരിക്കേണ്ടവയെ സ്വീകരിക്കുന്നതിനും ഒട്ടുവളരെ സമയം വ്യയം ചെയ്യേണ്ടതായിവന്നു. ജനങ്ങൾ വേലചെയ്യും പട്ടിണികിടന്നും തരുന്നപണത്തെ ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരിക്കലും ഗവർണ്മെൻറു ദുർവ്യയം ചെയ്യാൻ പാടില്ലാത്തതാണു്.

മുൻകഥകളെപ്പറ്റി ഇത്രയും ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിക്കാൻ ഇടയായിട്ടുള്ളതു് ഇതുപോലെ പിന്നീടൊരവസരത്തിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ സങ്കടപ്പെടുന്നതിനും പറയുന്നതിനും ഇടയാകാതിരിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം വ്യവസായഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ ഭരണം വേണ്ടപോലെ ആലോചിച്ചു നടത്തണമെന്നുള്ള ഒരു മുന്നറിവിനായി മാത്രമാണു. ഈ രാജ്യത്തുനിന്നും ഫ ൦ ൭ ൦-ൽ ഫ,ന്നു വ്,ന്നു ൈ,വ്നു ർ രൂപാ വിലയ്ക്കുള്ള സാധനങ്ങൾ കയറുമതി ചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നതു ഫ ൦ ൯ ൈ-ൽ പ്രത്തിയപ്പോൾ ൈ,ർ ൦ ,വ്ൻ ൪ വ്നു രൂപായായി വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിൽ ഫ ൦ ൦-നു ൻ ൦ വീതവും അസംസ്കൃതസാധനങ്ങളായിട്ടാണു് കയറുമതി ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു. ഈ രാജ്യത്തു ധാരാളമായും സൌകര്യമായും കിട്ടുന്ന അസംസ്കൃതസാധനങ്ങളെ സംസ്കൃതസാധനങ്ങളാക്കി ഇവിടത്തെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾ നിർവ്വഹിക്കാതെ കയറുമതി ചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന കാലത്തോളം ജനങ്ങളുടെ ധനാദായസ്ഥിതി ഗണ്യമായവിധം വർദ്ധിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതല്ല. ഇവിടെയുണ്ടാകുന്ന അസംസ്കൃതസാധനങ്ങളിൽ പലതും സംസ്കൃതസാധനങ്ങളാക്കിത്തീർക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടതായ പലേ വിദഗ്ധന്മാരെയും ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും ഇപ്പോൾ പഠിപ്പിച്ചു വരുത്തീട്ടുണ്ടു. ഇവരെ വേണ്ടപോലെ ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്താൻ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനു സാധി

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ക്കുമെങ്കിൽ അതിലേക്കായി അവക്കു വേണ്ട സൌകര്യങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കി കൊടുക്കയും അല്ലാത്തപക്ഷം അവരുടെ ചെറുപ്പകാലത്തെ സമയത്തെ പുറമേയുള്ള രാജ്യങ്ങളുടെ ശ്രേയസ്സിനായി വേലചെയ്യുന്നതിനും അവരുടെ നന്മയ്ക്കും വേണ്ടി അവരെ ഭംഗിവാക്കു പറഞ്ഞു പിരിച്ചയക്കയുമാണ് വേണ്ടതു.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Sir, there have been criticisms about the budget from different standpoints. When I hear member after member rise up and point out that there is nothing remarkable in Government having been able to present a surplus budget as the surplus was due to various accidental circumstances for which no credit is due to anybody, it reminds me of a paragraph in *Punch*. When, after the close of the great war, various experts began to point out that the British Government and the British generals had gone wrong in every aspect of the preparation and conduct of the war, *Punch* pointed out that these people forgot one thing, *viz.*, that England won the war and that some measure of pre-vision and generalship must have been necessary for achieving this result. Similarly, with regard to our surplus, I feel sure that, whatever accident may have helped us, but for the long-continued, cautious and conservative financial policy of Government, this surplus would not have materialised; and to that extent both the Government and the Financial Secretary deserve the cordial congratulations of the country.

Passing on from this preliminary observation, I desire only to offer a few remarks about the way in which the direction of the activities of the Development Departments and the policy of Government which has a bearing upon them could be slightly altered with beneficent results. One of the most remarkable acts of the administration of the late President Roosevelt was the appointment of the Country Life Commission, to find out what could best be done for the betterment of the condition of dwellers in the rural parts of the country as distinct from the town dwellers. These were President Roosevelt's words:

> "Our civilization rests at bottom on the wholesomeness, the attractiveness, and the completeness as well as the prosperity of life in the country. Upon the development of country life rests ultimately our ability to feed and clothe the hungry nations, to supply the city with fresh blood, clean bodies and clean brains that can endure the terrific strains of modern life. We need the development of men in the open country who will be, in the future as in the past, the stay and the strength of the nation".

President Roosevelt was moved to take up this question by reading about the marvellous achievements in this direction of the Irish Agricultural Organization Society under the inspiring personality of Sir Horace Plunkett. Land settlement, agriculture, various forms of cottage industry, credit societies such as creameries, bee-keeping, lace manufacture, and wholesale producing and distributive societies, had made the most wonderful strides of progress there. Statistics of all these are the most eloquent proof of the success of the movement. I will give only one set of figures about the famous Irish creameries. In 1889

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there was one butter society with butter sales to the extent of £ 4,369. Its bank loans etc., were *nil*. By 1918 there were more than 1,000 societies, butter sales amounted to roughly £ 28½ millions, and the bank loans to £ 7 millions; the general turnover was £ 10 millions, and total turnover £ 39½ millions. Nationalist Ireland, which had for years been sunk in the mire of despondency, took a new lease of life which was reflected in all directions. Emigration to America, which was depopulating the country districts, was almost stopped as people found there were means of earning their livelihood and living a decent and moderately comfortable life at home. Government also felt compelled to shape its policy in tune with the new trend of things. The landless peasants were enabled, through Government financial help, to purchase their holdings; a series of Land Acts were enacted culminating in the Windhan's Land Act of 1901 by which £100,000,000 of 2¾ per cent. land stock repayable in 68½ yearly instalments and guaranteed by the British Treasury was issued and given to the land-owners as purchase price. If the land owner instead of realising interest on his purchase price, desired to realise his capital, he could sell these stocks in the open market. Whenever the price of the stocks fell below par, they were bought up by Government out of a fund which had been created under the designation of the Irish Development Fund, and thus the price of the stock was kept steady. Plunkett House, from which these various forms of activity were directed and guided, and the propagandist literature issued therefrom have become the inspiration of all persons throughout the world who desire to better the lot of suffering humanity. Sir Horace Plunkett's own book, *Ireland in the New Century*, has become classic to all social reformers and co-operators. The movement of mass betterment through co-operation is associated in England chiefly with the honored name of Richard Owen. It is unnecessary for me to refer at greater length to what is being done throughout the world for the economic uplift of the great mass of population.

All I desire is to point out that a comprehensive scheme on these lines in which there is scope for the intelligent and harmonious co-operation of both the Government and the people is the supreme necessity of the day in Travancore. Here the population is almost exclusively agricultural and rural. The conditions here are ideally fitted for a successful movement on those lines; practically all the people here may be classed as rural and agricultural. General education here is more widespread than in any other country in India and in several countries of Europe. There will be no necessity for compulsory land purchase, as fortunately Government have at their disposal a large area of land which could be made available as small allotments. But very little has been done to help the rural population. The remarks of a great writer on the rural population of another country applies with far greater force to the conditions in our country:

"On no point of the whole of our social and economic system is reconstruction or reorganisation based on a comprehensive enquiry more urgently called for than on country life. There is no unity about it, no satisfactory inter-connexion among parts, no

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substance for contentment nor of immediate prospect of wealth. In St. Paul's words, people in the country parts are groaning and travailing in pain together, waiting to be clothed upon. The country is full of hopeless, prospectless labourers, farmers and landlords."

I have no new remedies to suggest. It is a matter for gratification that solutions which occur to one when one reads of most of the successful remedial measures adopted in other countries have already suggested themselves to the Government. What I plead for is that the various measures should be reviewed and re-shaped and co-ordinated on a comprehensive basis to suit the conditions in this country and that all friction and obstacles in the way of all the resources of Government and the hearty co-operation of the people being brought to bear upon the solution of the problem should be removed. The remedies that suggest themselves to me from the example of other countries are the following :—

(1) Proper land records and boundaries and their up-to-date maintenance to reflect the changes in ownership or occupation.

(2) The removal of all vagueness and all causes of friction in the relation between *jenmies* and *kudiyans*.

(3) Land settlement in small allotments on an extensive scale.

(4) Provision of rural credit by which landed property can be made a liquid asset freely utilisable for agricultural improvements.

(5) Encouragement of cottage industries such as stock-breeding, weaving, coir yarn and mat industry, and lace-making ; and also providing finances for the same.

(6) General, technical and agricultural education on practical lines.

About land records, the *Jenmi-Kudiyan* Regulation and other matters I hope to have other opportunities of offering a few observations. About financing industry and cultivation in general, I am not unaware of what is being attempted through the proposed State-aided Bank, through cooperation, the Central Co-operative Bank and through various other forms of credit societies and through the Agricultural Loans Regulation. What I have to submit is that these measures do not touch the real kernel of the problem. I would request Government to enquire what is being done in other countries. There is for example the *Rente Bank* of Prussia which is authorised by Government to issue a very large amount of land bonds which are made available to persons who purchase small holdings or who require money to develop them. These *Rente Banks* do not require any money drafts from Government, but as they are run by business-men on business lines with the authority and support of Government, the bonds are readily bought and sold ; and so these bonds discharge the functions of ready money. There is also the Land Bank of Berlin, the Regional Banks of France, the National Land Banks of Ireland, Denmark and other European countries and especially of several Australian States and other growing countries owning plenty of land with no liquid money. These wi l afford us valuable hints how to

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adapt similar institutions to the needs of our country without involving Government in any heavy financial outlay in ready money. What is necessary is that these should be run by business-men on business lines with the authority of Government in the background, but without the paralysing presence of departmental redtapism, favouritism, and other personal considerations, all of which exercise such a demoralising and discouraging influence upon all the benevolent and well-meant intentions of Government at the present day.

Similarly, with regard to land settlement, it is undeniable that Government are fully aware of the benefits of the scheme; but after the changes in the rules, framed probably with the best of intentions, what little demand there was for land has only disappeared—surely not accountable wholly by the prevailing financial depression. The way in which applications for land are dealt with is to a large extent responsible for this. Other forces also have been at work. The departmental authorities come to know that in some instances some speculative purchasers of land were able to sell their registered holdings at a great profit or that somebody through a lucky deal in coups or through favoritism made a large profit in timber. Then the authorities rush to the opposite extreme in a panic; and in order to redeem their personal prestige or through ignorance of local conditions—sometimes Himalayan in character, in one instance timber value having been assessed at more than Rs. 1 lakh above the correct valuation—or through personal prejudice or through a mixture of all these causes, they try to enforce conditions which render it impossible for any genuine demand for land to be satisfied. If moderate rates of *taravila* and tax are charged on some uniform and intelligible principle, and if the standing timber on lands is sold in public auction to be removed within a reasonable time, I shall be greatly surprised if there is any dearth of demand for plots of land 5 acres and 10 acres in area in any fairly good region of Travancore. With regard to the attempt of Government to sell lands in 5 acre and 10 acre plots, I was discussing this question with a member of this House, Mr. Dominic Tomman, who combines remarkable intelligence with unrivalled practical acquaintance with the land problems in our country. Mr. Tomman is of opinion that poor people without any money and without any support will never be able to take up and improve isolated plots far away from their homes. If, on the other hand, a large block is thrown open and an intelligent and fair-minded person is asked to select a number of settlers, and form a colony, and if Government will render some small help in the shape of agricultural loans on easy terms and by the opening of communications, the scheme of colonisation on a large scale can be most successfully combined with the scheme of creating a large number of small allotments. As an example, he was telling me that this could be most successfully done in the case of the land in the catchment area of the proposed Kallar reservoir. Government could also eventually realise a decent

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rate of *taravila* and tax. I am only referring to one direction in which the good intentions of Government are frustrated by a failure to appreciate local conditions. All these problems could be solved on correct lines by means of an organization similar to the Irish Agricultural Organization Society. The initial momentum and the expenses of propaganda work in the case of Ireland were supplied by philanthropists like Carnegie and Lord Dunsany. But here these helps could be and ought to be most effectively provided by Government through the Departments of Agriculture, Industries and Co-operation.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to ask Mr. Mammen Mappillai if the Economic Development Board has not been trying to do work of that description.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): I do not think it is possible for a Board which meets only occasionally to do it. It requires much continuous effort which only special organizations will be able to put forth.

My suggestion therefore is that one person or a small committee of two with a tactful and intelligent development officer of Government in daily touch with these problems should be deputed to study the problems and their solutions in other countries and submit a report on the lines of Roosevelt's Country Life Commission, embodying a scheme for the formation of a popular propagandist society like the Irish Agricultural Organization Society and pointing out the way in which the solutions could be made applicable to the conditions of this country. If such a scheme is worked in hearty co-operation between the Development Departments of Government and intelligent and public-spirited citizens, I feel sure that results not less marvellous than those which have been attained in other countries could be obtained by us in an incredibly short space of time.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): I desire to make a few general observations on the budget that has been presented to us. But in doing so, it seems to me to be absolutely necessary to see whether any attention has been directed by Government to the general and detailed discussions of the budget during the first session of this House, and whether those discussions have in any way contributed to influence the administrative policy of Government to any appreciable extent. It is indeed gratifying to find that the deficit forecasted by us last year has not occurred and that an increase of revenue from an unexpected quarter, for which all of us expressed a fervent prayer, has saved us from what would otherwise have been a difficult situation. In fact there has been a *decrease* in the revenue as anticipated by us to the extent of Rs. 6½ lakhs and an increase only to the extent of Rs. 4 lakhs, excluding the unexpected or "windfall" item of Rs. 4¾ lakhs. This increase of revenue is derived solely under the heads, Excise, Stamp and Interest; in respect of all other items, there has been a fall in the anticipated revenue. We find from the present budget that no increase of revenue is anticipated from these three items during the next year. We are told that the expenditure

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for the current year would be Rs. 4 lakhs less than the amount for which provision was made in the budget; this saving is mainly made up of Rs. 2¼ lakhs being the excess provision for salaries and establishments and Rs. 1¾ lakhs provided for the construction of the Delhi Palace, His Highness the Maha Raja's tour to Cochin,etc. Obviously, this reduction in expenditure has not been the result of any retrenchment policy adopted by Government but is only an accident. While we are glad to know that the amount saved from the budgeted expenditure on salaries and establishment is considerable, we are unable to understand why an exact forecast of the expenditure to be incurred was not made in the budget of the previous year. We are entitled, however, to assume that this saving also has not resulted on account of the permanent reduction or abolition of any office in any of the departments of the State and that it is *not* due to any new policy adopted by Government as a result of the discussions on the budget at the end of the previous year.

Looking back now to the proceedings of the Council of the previous year, the most important and prominent feature of the discussions that strikes us is that we were almost unanimous in the matter of the administration being top-heavy. We pointed out that the heaviest expenditure was on salaries, establishment and allowances, that this expenditure has been rapidly growing in recent years and that it was of the utmost importance that this disproportionately large amount spent upon salaries and allowances should be reduced by bringing down the pay of several of the officers, by doing away with the numerous unnecessary appointments and by a reduction of the various kinds of allowances. Instances of many unnecessary appointments in several departments of the State were brought to light and the Government were urged to dispense with these appointments. We emphasised the fact that drastic retrenchment was imperatively necessary in respect of the Revenue and some other departments of the administration. Several instances in which officers were paid far in excess of the sanctioned salary of the office to which they were appointed were also pointedly brought to the attention of the Government. This Council demanded that retrenchment should be effected in the higher grades of the service and not in the lower alone; and one member after another laid particular emphasis upon this aspect of the problem of retrenchment. Looking now to the closing year and looking into the budget that has been presented to us, I am sorry to observe that this important feature that characterised our discussions last year has not yet received sufficient consideration from the Government.

Another prominent subject of discussion in connection with the public service was with reference to certain sections of the subordinate service, particularly the class of vernacular school teachers for whom it was contended that the pay fixed was utterly inadequate. Though Government have been able to make a liberal and substantial provision by way of fee concessions to several classes of the people, no concession

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has yet been granted to the demand made on behalf of these subordinates who, according to the Director of Public Instruction, are doing "very good and unselfish work".

It is thus pretty clear that the almost unanimous expression of the views of this Council that the superior services were over-paid and over-manned while certain classes of the subordinate service remained under-paid have not received sufficient consideration at the hands of the Government. The Financial Secretary says that the process of "lopping off unnecessary appointments" has been continued; obviously this process has been directed to the twigs, for we hear of no branches having fallen under the operation.

The Financial Secretary is always optimistic in regard to the financial condition of the State and this optimism is mainly derived from a consideration of the fact that the Government of India and several Indian States were experiencing serious financial difficulties at a time when we have been able to balance our budgets "without having either to resort to new taxation or to make any considerable curtailments in its normal expenditure". Mr. George claims credit for carrying into effect without undue strain a much-needed revision of the salaries of the subordinate services and also for embarking on various new schemes of progress and expansion and for including in the budget of 1099 as many as 58 new schemes costing about Rs. $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. This argument of the Financial Secretary assumes that we have not had recourse to additional taxation in recent years and that we are still in a position to spend in the ordinary way. Both of these assumptions are clearly wrong. We had as a matter of fact to resort to additional taxation by introducing the Income Tax Regulation and also by increasing school fees in 1097. The enactment of the Village Panchayat Bill contemplated by Government will prove to be another source of taxation in rural areas as the Municipal Regulation is in respect to Municipalities. In fact taxation had to be steadily resorted to, to meet the growing needs of the administration. It has also to be remembered that taxes once imposed are not withdrawn; nor are we accustomed to get remissions of tax in prosperous years when the revenue is far in excess of the ordinary requirements. Thus, even when receipts show a large surplus over expenditure, no remission of tariff duties or change in any other form of taxation ensues. Instead of utilising a surplus for reducing taxation, our policy has always been preferably to spend the surplus revenue by increasing the scale of public expenditure as is evidenced by the expenditure on departmental reorganisations and on public buildings in former days. It is therefore in the wise exercise of the discretion in spending the revenue that the prosperity of the taxpayer depends. The cry for retrenchment is not new. It was raised many years ago by the public and in the Popular Assembly; and one of the most important objects with which the question was raised was that the money available after meeting the minimum cost of the administration might be spent more profitably upon reproductive and other works of public utility and not merely because we were afraid of a deficit year after

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[Mr. M. N. Pillai.]

year. Any comparison between the financial conditions of the Imperial and other Governments with our own is absolutely beside the mark as the conditions are essentially and obviously different. It appears, therefore, to me that the real test of a successful budget lies not in its balancing the expenses with the revenue, but in the nature of the expenses to meet which the funds are made available and of the purposes for which the people want them to be applied. Judged by this test, it is doubtful whether we have reason to congratulate ourselves for the "58 new schemes costing about Rs. 3½ lakhs" provided for these purposes. It is a source of gratification, however, to find that the real situation has been grasped by the Government as is evident from the pronouncements made on several occasions; and we therefore hope that Government will be able to surmount all possible difficulties and bring about a speedy and effective solution of the problem of reducing unnecessary expenditure in all directions.

I have nothing instructive to add to the many suggestions that have already been made for the improvement of the sources of our revenue. One noticeable feature of the sources of our income is that many of these are inelastic and more or less very unsteady. While, for instance, we anticipated a fall in the excise revenue last year, the revised estimate shows that there has been an increase under this item. We estimated an increase in stamps but the revised estimate shows that there has been a fall. Instances of unrealised anticipations of revenue from these sources may be multiplied. Again, the land and forest revenues do not at all show any signs of improvement but only of decreases. It has also to be borne in mind that it was by selling *puduval* lands and forest timber that much of the revenue under these heads was being realised during several of the previous years. This cannot obviously continue. The necessity for improving these sources of revenue in order to ensure a steady income from these sources is quite apparent. I hope these are also some of the important circumstances which have to be taken into account in examining the finances of the State.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir, the Financial Secretary expects a cordial reception to his budget from this House, because it is, according to him, a joint production of both the Government and the representatives of this Council on the Finance Committee. But I am sure the members of the Finance Committee will not put forward that claim. Even though we are told the committee was given the fullest opportunity to examine and freely discuss every provision contained in the budget, we are kept in the dark as to how far their opinions and criticisms have been accepted by the Government. It is necessary that, as in other places, the proceedings of the Finance Committee should be published so that the House may know and profit by their deliberations. In this connection, I feel it my imperative duty to call prominent public attention to a letter that appeared in the public press, in connection

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with the question of constitutional reforms in Travancore, from Sir. P. Rajagopalachariar who was the Dewan of this State for seven years. He made it known to the public in no uncertain terms, that the whole responsibility for all actions taken in connection with the administration of the country is solely the Dewan's. It is therefore clear that, in the expenditure of nearly two crores of rupees it is the will of the Dewan alone that prevails in regard to large non-votable items. The necessity for a wider publicity of the discussions of the Finance Committee would, therefore, be admitted by all.

Though the Financial Secretary says that the budget discloses the real state of the country's finance, yet his budget for 1098 did really disguise the intention of the Government to contribute towards the preliminary expenses connected with the Cochin Harbour Scheme. Even when a pointed reference was made by Rao Bahadur Krishna Aiyangar this time last year, the Government took care not to give any answer to the point. This budget also makes no provision for any contribution for 1099. Are we to take it that no contribution would be made by our State next year? Again, the reported creation of a surgeon's place without that being included in the budget, and that during the sitting of the budget session itself, clearly proves how far the Government is sincere and honest in these vain professions.

The Finance Member congratulates himself on his being able to balance the budget without having either to resort to new taxation or to make any considerable curtailment in the normal expenditure, while all the neighbouring Governments are experiencing serious financial difficulties owing to the economic dislocation and depression of trade. Sir, it is very difficult to believe that the Finance Member would make such extravagant claims. For, what would have been the condition of our finances but for the iniquitous salt tax? The oppressing effect of this impost is as much felt by the people of this State as by those in British India. The piling of tax on tax which the last few years have witnessed here in the shape of income-tax, municipal tax, market dues, enhancement of Anchal rates, school fees, etc., will give the lie direct to this preposterous claim. We have brought ourselves to a stage when further taxation becomes dangerous and therefore should be strongly condemned.

If therefore the Government wants the wherewithal to meet the requirements of the State, it has only two ways left; firstly, developing the sources of State income in such a manner as would not adversely affect the prosperity and capacity of the people, and secondly, strictly retrenching the expenditure. Let us see how the Government have tried to solve these problems.

As to the development of the resources of the State, the budget gives us no clue in regard to the policy and intentions of the Government. At the last year's budget debate, this side of the House unanimously urged on Government the extreme necessity for the Interportal Trade Convention being reopened and revised. We are every year forced to forego an enormous portion of the customs revenue which is, in all fairness and justice, legitimately ours. Though the volume of trade has

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increased by leaps and bounds, our receipts under customs still remain poor. We look in vain in the budget to know what action the Government have taken in this matter. They have not a word to offer in regard to that unanimous representation of the non-official side of this House. The financial salvation lies only that way.

The next source of income is the receipt from the railway. It is painful to see that our receipts from this source are steadily going down and our anticipations are not being fulfilled. The Government explain that this decline is due to increase in the working expenses and interest charges. These may have *partly* contributed to this undesirable state of things; but the real cause of this steady decline will have to be looked for elsewhere. The Government do not pay the necessary attention to the proper working of the railways of the State. No attempt is being made to check and scrutinise the railway accounts. I may be permitted to echo the general feeling in the country that there is considerable leakage somewhere in the railway administration. It may be that our hands are tied by the terms of the contract. Yet it is high time that Travancore Government took effective and urgent steps to remedy this evil. People travel without tickets on our lines. The checking staff is conspicuous by its absence. A supervising agency must be appointed in regard to all these matters; otherwise the railway may become a source of considerable loss and injury to Government. The budget is studiously silent on this matter. It would have been far better if the Government had taken this House into their confidence and let them know what is really the difficulty.

Another source of income which could be profitably improved is the income from the forests. It is a matter for grave concern that the income from this important source of revenue has had a serious fall. The Government do not tell us what they propose to do to improve the situation. They appear to be biding their chance on the uncertain world factors. This is most unsatisfactory.

The next item one would like to comment upon is the receipt under Excise. Owing to corruption largely in vogue in the department, the Government lose much of the income that should have come to it legitimately. The monopoly system which has been condemned on all hands is still being retained owing to the obstinate insistence of the head of the department who managed to get it a fresh lease of life. The independent system which is in vogue in other parts of the State does not lend itself easily to corruption and other malpractices. The introduction of the independent system throughout the State would really improve this source of revenue.

Turning to the second method of improving the finances of the State, *viz.*, judicious and relentless retrenchment of expenditure, we find that the Finance Member claims that the Government have been exercising very strict economy in expenditure so much so that they were able to embark on various new schemes of progress and expansion. One

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is sorry to observe that it is difficult to accept these statements as real, for, whatever may be the professions of Government, the actual condition is directly otherwise. In the name of retrenchment the Government have increased the expenditure of the State as is proved by the recent departmental reorganisations. The Government do not seem to have this idea of retrenchment always in mind. When the High Court Registrar's place became vacant, the action taken by Government in filling the place by a temporary Judge instead of by a senior Munsiff in accordance with the G. O. has resulted in a loss to Government. Is this retrenchment? Government continue to follow very often the system of appointing to posts persons with pay much higher than that fixed for such posts. The cases of the present Mint Superintendent, the Land Revenue and Police Commissioners, and the Dewan are instances in point. (*Laughter.*) The people cannot look with equanimity on this extravagant waste of public funds. The question to be considered is not whether these individuals deserve the higher pay, but whether, consistent with the resources of the State, we can afford to pay such large salaries. This system has therefore to be severely condemned. While preaching retrenchment, the Government merrily go on creating unnecessary posts in the service. The latest instances of the same are the rumoured creation of a surgeon's place in the Medical Department and the proposed addition of three lecturers in the Law College. Sir, is this the lopping off of unnecessary appointments proudly set forth by the Finance Member? We have had much of these hollow statements. Let us have some real action.

While on the subject of revenue, I may briefly refer to the school fees and the concessions recently granted by the Government. I am glad that the Government have thought it fit to grant fee concessions. But the present system of granting concessions to certain communities as a whole without reference to the capacity of the individuals concerned has to be condemned. The Government should aim at giving relief to the poor irrespective of the communities they belong to. The poor in every community deserve help; otherwise, it will be a reckless sacrifice of legitimate income. As in Cochin, we should also aim at helping the really poor in every community.

From the foregoing, it would be clear that the Government have no definite policy in the matter of systematic development of the sources of income. In the current year, the situation is saved by the salt tax which in all probability will be withdrawn by the middle of the next year. Therefore it is unsafe to go in for any recurring expenditure on the basis of this temporary special income. We should leave this income out of account when we are considering the expenditure.

Passing on to the expenditure side of the revised budget, a superficial reader might perhaps be delighted to find that a reduction of four lakhs of rupees is anticipated in the current year. But, when analysed, it will be found that it was not the result of any kind of retrenchment on the part of Government. It was due to a mistake in the calculation under

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salaries and establishment and also to the lapse of a pretty large amount, *viz.*, Rs. 2¼ lakhs which was practically locked up. If that amount had been set free, it could have been utilised for some reproductive work. On another ground also, this system of allowing such large amounts to remain in the hands of Government in excess of actual necessities has to be condemned. It gives a temptation for Government to create new and unnecessary appointments. We are not told how and why there has been a lapse of a considerable amount in the Public Works Department. Manifestly the expenditure during the current year does not give us any correct standard. As against an anticipated increase of Rs. 3 lakhs in the budget for 1098, the Government anticipate in 1099 only an increase of about Rs. 1½ lakhs in the normal income, even on the expectation of a possible improvement in the economic conditions. The increase according to the revised estimates in the normal receipts in the current year being only very small, it is difficult to believe whether our anticipations for next year will be fulfilled. The normal receipt anticipated in 1099 is only Rs. 193 lakhs and odd, while the normal expenditure for 1099, excluding the special items of *Murajapam* and the construction of a Palace at Delhi, would be Rs. 194 lakhs. A great portion of this is spent on salaries; and there is considerable discontent amongst the people owing to the fact that a major portion of this amount finds its way outside this State. This is ruinous to the State. Thus, even after reducing the allotment of expenditure in 1099 under sinking fund by Rs. ¾ lakh on the basis of a questionable policy, the transactions would end in a deficit. Is this a bright financial outlook? Does this justify the spirit of jubilation that pervades the budget speech of the Finance Member? The speech does not contain any enunciation of scheme or policy for the improvement of the material and moral condition of the people. Our financial condition being in such a sorry plight, we are entitled to ask for a judicious use of the retrenchment axe. All schemes of questionable utility and of the avoidable variety should be knocked on the head. The Assistant Superintendents of Police, the Excise Sub-Inspectors, the temporary Survey party, the Assistant Tahsildars etc., the necessity for whose retention has not been made out, must be given their go-by. The further creation of new and unnecessary posts should be made impossible. A separate allotment for leave allowances, which is a special feature in this year's budget, is unnecessary and must therefore be dropped. The Finance Member himself admits that a considerable portion of this allotment would, in all probability, lapse. It will be far better if the Government are asked to bring in revised estimates for the purpose as necessities arise, because the amount thus released will become available for profitable purposes.

In conclusion, I appeal to the Government to put into practice what they preach.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): Sir, I do not think it necessary to make a long speech about the budget, nor am I prepared

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to speak ill or well of the Financial Secretary in having prepared the budget placed before us, as we all know that Mr. George is not solely responsible for it, since, as he says, the committee of my brother councillors were freely consulted and their opinions formed the basis of the present budget. But the non-official members have denied the statement that they were freely consulted. They had no voice in every matter and every item connected with the budget. A financial standing committee can become useful only if the non-official members are permitted to have their say on each and every item of the budget. It is hoped that, next year, the official as well as the non-official members will be able to so put their heads together as to present to this House a unanimously agreed budget which will prove more useful to the public.

Taken all in all, the budget for 1099 may be characterised as hopeful rather than gloomy. Taking the opinion of the Financial Secretary at its face value, the current year as well as the next year will result in a surplus even without the increase of salt tax in spite of the fact that a total amount of Rs. 8 lakhs has to be spent in 1099 for four special non-recurring items.

I shall confine my remarks to a few departments. Even last year I had my say on the earnings of the Travancore Railway. In spite of the explanation given by Mr. George for the fall of income under this head, I am inclined to believe with some of my brother members that "there is something rotten in the State of Denmark". Although Cochin owns only 64 miles of railway, the income therefrom is very high and next only to land revenue; but while Travancore owns a railway about 100 miles long, the earnings therefrom are found insufficient even to pay the guaranteed interest, although the fares are now doubled. The accounts, as I said last year, require more close and strict scrutiny.

We do fully hope, Sir, that the Kottarakara-Alwaye extension will become an accomplished fact during your glorious administration. Yesterday, Mr. Mackie touched an unpleasant chord concerning our railway administration. The rolling stock used in the Travancore line is the worst of the lot. Money spent by Travancore for purchase of fresh stock is not utilised within Travancore. Travancore can claim none of the rolling stock as her own, for everything is stamped with the S. I. R. mark. This is not the case in the Cochin Railway. This also deserves serious attention on the part of the Government.

The Travancore Public Works Department is divided into five divisions for administrative purposes. Of these five, Alwaye Division is the largest, including as it does a major portion of the Devicolam Division. Of the Rs. 25½ lakhs allotted for the department I deeply regret to find that this, the largest Division, gets only the smallest share, *viz.*, about Rs. 2,15,000. Out of this small amount Rs. 1½ lakhs goes for incomplete works and only about Rs. 70,000 is left for new works. Another calculation reveals a sadder tale, for the P. W. Division of Alwaye is comprised

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of three sub-divisions and a major portion of the allotted amount is earmarked for one sub-division alone, namely, Devicolam; while the six taluks of Parur, Kunnatnad, Muvattupuzha, Todupuzha, Vaikam and Sherttallai together get only a very insignificant amount, not coming over to 3 per cent of the whole grant for P. W. proper. In having prepared this kind of budget, it is evident that the official as well as the non-official members of the Finance Committee have entirely ignored the legitimate claims, interests and needs of a large population living in these six taluks and paying to Government a larger share of revenue than any other similar area of Travancore. Repeated complaints from these people for the construction of various important public works absolutely necessary for their everyday life are remaining cries in the wilderness. This grievous state of affairs deserves to be remedied at the earliest opportunity. In this connection, I have only to state that the complaint made by my learned friend the Rev. Fr. Vettikkapalli, deserves to be reiterated with tenfold force. To one urgent work alone, I shall draw your kind attention. During the rainy season of the year, numerous people, including a large number of students, have to cross the Alwaye river to and fro. Loss of life is not infrequent. A bridge over the river is a long-standing necessity. I regret to find that repeated representations on the subject in the Popular Assembly have fallen on deaf ears.

The only two other departments of which I wish to speak are those of Agriculture and Industries. Travancore is fortunate in having as the heads of these two departments, two gentlemen of high education and specialists in their own lines. Under them the departments are efficiently managed. They are ever ready to do any help to the people; and yet, Sir, there is a dark side of the picture. In spite of the heavy expenditure incurred by the State to maintain these two departments and the close attention and untiring efforts of the heads of these two departments, it is to be deeply regretted that the people have not derived any adequate benefit. The output of paddy or cocoanut or any other agricultural products has not in my opinion shown any increase worth mentioning. The net result of the working of the Industries Department is also not encouraging.

With the above few observations I resume my seat, with the fervent hope that my suggestions will receive careful consideration at the hands of the members on both sides of this House.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencottah*): Sir, before I proceed to discuss about the budget of income and expenditure of the State, I should like to say a few words about the loud complaints regarding retrenchment of expenses under service heads incurred by Government year after year.

In this connection I am forced to quote the well-known maxim:

"If to do were as easy as to preach, chapels had been churches and poor man's cottages princes' palaces".

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To my Tamil friends I may quote "சொல்லு தல்யார்க்கும் எழிதாம், திறாம் சொலியவண்ணம் செயல்".

And to my Malayalam-knowing friends, "എളുപ്പത്തിൽ എല്ലാം പറയാം, കായ്ം വഹിക്കുന്നതു വളരെ പ്രയാസമാണു."

We loudly talk of reduction of expenses under the salaries of Government officers but the difficulty lies in reducing the same. We attack Government and heads of departments for appointing new officers, for the creation of new departments and for constituting several committees for varying purposes. If the facts are clearly analysed, it will be seen that we alone are responsible for the increased expenditure. By saying '*we*' I do not mean the members of this House alone, but I include under the category the members of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, the members of the Development Board and the influential gentlemen of the State.

We approach the Dewan and the heads of the various departments with requests to make provisions in the State service for our sons, nephews, friends, relations etc., and they being men, are obliged to yield to our requests with the result that several new appointments are made year after year and the expenditure swells; and so, as long as cravings for State service exist among the people, the State expenditure on that account is bound to increase. Until we value education for its own sake and not as a means to enter Government service we should blame ourselves and not the Government for the high expenditure under service heads.

Sir, now let me take a few important sources of revenue and submit in general the merits and demerits, and suggest, according to what I think proper, the several ways of improving the same. Of the various sources of revenue, it is an admitted fact that nearly one-half is derived from the Excise Department. This revenue can never be stationary and it is liable to fluctuation owing to various causes the enumeration of which in detail, I am afraid, would cause you, Sir, to stop me when the time allotted to me is exceeded. The excise revenue when once lost by oversight is lost for ever. To get the maximum revenue, careful and effective management of the Department is highly necessary. To attain this object, a re-adjustment of the several Divisions of the Department should be made.

At present the method of work in the Excise Department is throughly unsatisfactory. There are as many as eleven divisions, and I think this is the largest number of divisions that any head of a department has to deal with in Travancore; and the Excise Commissioner who is the head of the Department has to carry on correspondence with these eleven subordinate officers and with the Goaernment. His office work being heavy, it is absolutely impossible to expect him to effectively control the work of his subordinate officers and to devote the requisite time to the solution of very many important questions. The annual number of communications sent out from the Excise Commissioner's office is about 18,000 so that it gives a monthly

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average of 1,500 and a daily average of 75 calculated on a basis of 20 working days in a month. No argument is necessary to convince you, Sir, that this number is certainly too much for a single officer. It may be argued that most of the communications are of a routine nature and are attended to by the personal assistant. I may state in reply that all powers including that of granting a day's casual leave to a peon are vested in the Excise Commissioner and he has to pass orders in regard to each and every subject. It is only after the orders are passed by him that the assistant is allowed to sign and the communication is despatched. The second objection is that the system now in force provides for only one controlling officer, *viz.*, the present Division Officer, besides the Excise Commissioner, to control the revenue. And, as I have submitted, the Exicse Commissioner, for no fault of his, has not the time to check the work of his subordinates; and I seriously submit that the Division Officers are practically supreme in their own divisions. *It will be unfair* to expect the Excise Commissioner to effectively control the work of his immediate subordinates having regard to the largeness of the Department. The Division Officers have been left to themselves without close control being exercised over them. I am led to think that much revenue will be lost on this account. It is aboslutely necessary in the intersts of revenue and efficiency to provide another class of controlling officers between the present Division Officers and the Excise Commissioner. Such an officer will have the opportunity of very frequently inspecting each place in his jurisdiction and of checking the work of the present Division Officer. I am certain that if this is done there will be a considerable improvement in the revenue. No additional expenditure will be necessary, for, three out of the eleven circles may then be conveniently abolished and these officers may be made Deputy Commissioners over the eight circles. I do not think that the method of forming the eight Excise circles need be submitted in this discussion. To obtain the maximum revenue from the Excise Department, a readjustment of the same on the lines suggested above is highly necessary.

In British India and in other places the Excise Department has more than one controlling officer in addition to the Excise Commissioner. In Madras where the system is worked on the most up-to-date lines and where in consequence the maximum revenue is being realised, the system provides three controlling officers, *viz.*, the Assistant Excise Commissioner, the District Commissioner and the Commissioner, over the excise officers.

The conditions in Travancore are more difficult and we have more branches under the control of the Department with only one set of controlling officers. As one who has vey closely moved with all kinds of Excise officers and who has a fairly accurate knowledge of the working of the Department, I make bold to state that the present system is extremely detrimental to the realisation and growth of revenue and should be changed at once. I have stated this view on more than one occasion

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in the Popular Assembly. Sir, as this House is the proper place to put in a proposal of the kind, I feel sure that the Government will take up the question in all seriousness and bring about a thorough change in the working of the Department as detailed above.

Sir, there is one other point which I wish to submit in this connection. The present system under ordinary circumstances cannot be expected to give a change of work to the Division Officers till their retirement. The Excise Department *is no bed of roses* and it requires every day field-work, and I need not submit that any officer is not fit for it beyond a certain age. Naturally there should be a neglect of work and consequently inefficient administration when the officer is asked to do field-work which he is not physically able to do. In every department, a change of work has been provided for. The Tahsildar becomes a Division Assistant and then a Peishkar. The Assistant Superintendent of Police becomes a District Superintendent of Police in the natural course. The Munsiff becomes a Sub-Judge, then a District Judge and finally a High-Court Judge, if capable. The Assistant Engineer is promoted as an Executive Engineer in due course, if not higher as in the case of our present Chief Engineer; and the above remarks are applicable to the Medical and other departments too. I cannot see any reason why the Excise Department alone, where there is the heaviest and most responsible work, should be asked to work with only one set of controlling officers. The details connected with the change may be worked by Government in consultation with the Excise Commissioner. I am sure the Excise Commissioner will surely and sincerely support the proposal. With these few words, I beg to propose that the recommendation may be kindly accepted by Government.

Another point for consideration is that each section of the Secretariat should be in charge of an officer who has a thorough knowledge of the working of the department of which he is in charge. The Development Section under which the Excise Department together with others are placed should be in charge of an experinced Assistant Excise Commissioner, as, when compared with other branches under that Section, it is the Excise Department that brings the highest revenue worth mentioning. The Excise Department consists of several branches such as abkari, tobacco, customs and salt, and is answerable for nearly half the revenue of the State. Very many complicated questions touching all branches of excise and customs administration daily come up before Government for disposal. The Government are seriously handicapped in bestowing proper attention on any of these questions, because there is no trained officer who has a thorough knowledge of the subject in charge of the section. I do not mean any disparagement personally to the officer concerned, as I know he is one of the best officers we have in the State. Further, the views of the Excise Commissioner are not subjected to scrutiny in the Secretariat under the present arrangement. As the revenue of the Department is varying and as the Department alone brings a large amount of revenue to the

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coffers of the State and is *thus very important* in maintaining the financial equilibrium of the State, no amount of care bestowed on the working of the department under reference will be too much.

Further there are many important questions yet awaiting solution in the Department; and I need hardly state that the Government certainly requires expert assistants in the Secretariat to tackle these questions without much difficulty. In regard to the other departments included in the Development Section, one or two officers from other departments may, if necessary, be appointed as his assistants. Sir, I submit this suggestion solely in the interests of efficiency and of revenue, and I feel no doubt that it will be accepted by Government.

A few words in *re.* the abolition of abkari *in toto*. At present the abkari brings in a revenue of more than Rs. 20 lakhs. The Government cannot forego that revenue by the total abolition of liquor shops. I am strongly of opinion - and I hope the House will agree with me in saying—that the people alone are responsible for the maintenance of liquor shops and not the Government. If Government abolish the liquor shops there will be loss of revenue and the drinking population who, I am sure, form the major portion will resort to all malpractices for obtaining liquor and no amount of vigilance on the part of Government to check it will have any effect. Let not the people visit the shops and they will be closed in due course, just as the Munsiff's court at Devakottai was abolished for want of suits from Nattukottai Chetties for a period of six months. *We* are in fact to blame and not the Government for maintaining liquor shops.

A word with regard to the lot of complaints laid at the door of the Excise Commissioner for keeping open liquor shops after 8 P. M. It is most uncharitable to blame the Excise Commissioner on this ground as the opening of shops during late hours in the night is also entirely due to our fault, I mean, the fault of the drinking population. After attending dramas and other performances on the way home, many knock at the door of the ale house and the keeper of the same dare not refuse to open the door without exposing himself to serious consequences. Is the Commissioner responsible for such acts? Is there anybody in this House to suggest any remedy for such acts?

I have much to submit about the improvements to be effected in the salt factories of the State in the interests of revenue and to make them self-supporting in the yield of salt for State consumption. Reduction of establishment charges in the factories could also be made by readjustment of the jurisdiction of Inspectors in the factories. For want of time I shall take some other opportunity to submit a detailed scheme about the same.

Now, coming to land revenue, which is the most important source of revenue, I do not think there is much scope for enlarging it without throwing additional burdens on the agricultural population whose position at present is deplorable. Of course, there is some little scope for in-

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creasing the revenue by the registry of marshy lands in mountains; but I am strongly of opinion that there will be considerable difficulties in bringing these lands under proper cultivation, as the crops raised are subject to destruction by wild beasts.

In the interests of Government revenue and in the interests of ryots to avoid suits in the civil courts a clear demarcation of the boundaries of holdings is of paramount importance. The survey effected during the last settlement is very defective. The demarcation in the survey maps generally does not tally with the lie of the lands as occupied by the ryots. If possible, a resurvey is highly necessary; and if the Government are of opinion that the work entrusted to the Assistant Tahsildars tends to remedy the evil complained of above, I do not think that this House should grudge to allow the maintenance of Assistant Tahsildars for some time more, if by so doing some substantial work could be expected from them not in the shape of fines now enforced upon the ryots for so-called encroachments and for no fault of theirs, but by the assumption of Government lands from unauthorised occupants and the sale of the same. With regard to the sale of tank-beds in the Southern Division, I beg to submit that the policy adopted by the Government is not sound; for, if any unforeseen things happen in the main work of Pachipparai, the consequences will be serious and so it is better to maintain the existing tanks.

Coming to forests, I have to submit that a change in the methods of working of the Department is absolutely necessary. In obtaining the revenue from forests the principles that should be adopted are as follow:—

(1) There shall be no slackness in obtaining the full value of forest growth such as *eetas*, bamboos, etc., which are liable to destruction periodically.

(2) All forest produce should be carefully collected and sold each year.

(3) All dead trees, of course, including the trees blown down by the wind or other causes, should be worked down to the depôts and their value should be realised.

(4) The capture and sale of elephants may with advantage be pursued.

(5) With regard to the supply of timber to the depôts the present system of supply should be avoided and supply should be regulated according to the demand as there is no use in supplying timber to the depôts and placing ourselves at the mercy of merchants. The result of the present system is that in the close of the year the timber in the depôts is sold for any price to make up the revenue, and the value realised is sometimes far below the working charges of timber. The trees in the forests are just like gold and silver bullion in stock which could be converted into coin at any time. The value derived from the sale of timbers cannot be regarded as revenue. Timber is money in a different shape and it should be converted into money when the highest value can be had for it.

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Income tax is a good source of income to the Government as it affects only the rich men and the major portion of the revenue is obtained from business men. I need not submit that the business world suffers very much on account of the money market being very tight. If business thrives, there will be ample scope for great revenue in the shape of income tax. Without crying over the past, I should like to bring to the consideration of Government the extreme importance of investing the sinking funds, interest derived from money invested in British India bonds, and all other sums available for investment should in future be made available to the business men of the State on the security of landed properties at moderate interest so as to relieve them from the clutches of Shylocks. If that is done, business will prosper, greater profits will be ensured and the natural consequence will be that the Government will get double the income tax now budgeted for.

Stamp duties and registration fees may be enhanced. In the case of purchase of lands, it is the vendee that bears the cost and not the vendor, whereas in the case of hypothecation a proportionate reduction should be made as debtors bear the cost and not the creditors.

Coming to education, I have to submit that concession in the matter of fees to backward communities in education is good, but such concession should be given not to the rich men of the backward community, but to the poor among them.

I have to make a few observations with regard to the present policy of adjusting expenditure in proportion to the income likely to be derived. The expected income may not be forthcoming. Let me take for example the increment on salt income due to enhanced duty. If the consumption is reduced by a lakh of maunds there will be a fall of Rs. 2½ lakhs in salt income and so I am of opinion that in the policy to be pursued in budgeting expenditure, due provision should be made for all unforeseen contingencies. One can make as much as possible by all legal and moral ways but he should make a reserve of at least one-tenth of the total income if not more, so as to make it available when unforeseen circumstances crop in one's lifetime. What is applicable to a family is applicable to Government in a larger scale and I beg to propose that, in future, the Government should make it a rule to reserve one-tenth of the total revenue of the State and to accumulate the same by such reservation from year to year so as to enable them to be free masters to utilise the accumulated sum when unexpected expenses like the establishment of a separate University for Travancore have to be met from State funds.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Sir, the budget estimates for the year have been subjected to very severe criticism by the several members who spoke upon the subject and very little remains for me to add to the discussion on the subject. Nevertheless, it appears to me that I may make one or two useful observations on the budget. Even a superficial study of our financial transactions for the last ten years will show that the attempt of the Financial Department has been always

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to secure or effect what is known as balancing the budget. Balancing the budget means, in Travancore, according to the Finance Member of the State, adjusting the expenditure of the State to the revenue. From the standpoint of the tailor who cuts the coat according to the cloth it may be all right. We might congratulate the tailor for having made the coat according to the cloth. We cannot at the same time congratulate the wearer always on the coat made for him. The object, it appears to me, in making a budget must be not so much to adjust the expenditure to the revenue as to find out means for meeting all legitmate demands of the State, especially what are known as the needs of a progressive administration. Far from doing this, the Travancore budgets of the last ten years, if examined, will show that the income of the State has not been progressively augmented by finding new sources of revenue. Then what has actually happened is a systematic cutting down of expenditure especially in directions in which such retrenchment is least defensible. I tried to point out last year in my speech that, whenever retrenchment was found to be necessary in order to adjust expenditure to income, what was done was to stop all original works in regard to communications and buildings in the P. W. Department. Of course, that mode of retrenchment was chosen for the simple reason that it involved little or no curtailments in salaries. Nevertheless it appears to me that, in spite of such attempts, it is becoming increasingly difficult to balance the budget and to make a surplus. The revenue of the State has increased from Rs. 163 lakhs in 1092 to Rs. 2 crores in 1097, *i. e.*, it has increased by 23 per cent. while the expenditure has risen during the same period from Rs. 153 lakhs to Rs. 2 crores, *i. e*, by 31 per cent. From that one fact alone it will be seen that hereafter it will be very difficult to make both ends meet or to prepare a balanced budget as has been done this year.

Now we have also to take into account other matters which probably have been lost sight of, such as the reorganisation of the Devaswom Department. The separation of that department from the Revenue Department has reduced the available income of the State for general administrative purposes by over Rs. 7 lakhs; because, I find from a comparison of the actual expenditure on Devaswoms prior to and after 1097 that whereas the same has formerly varied between Rs. 13 and Rs. 14 lakhs, the budget expenditure for the year 1098 was Rs. 19 lakhs and for 1099 Rs. 20 lakhs. This is due to the fact that a separate Devaswom Fund had to be created on account of the Royal Proclamation; and whether that fund is utilised for Devaswom expenditure or not, no portion will be returned for general administration purposes. Thus the available resources for meeting ordinary administrative expenses have been reduced clearly by Rs. 7 lakhs. This certainly has added to the difficulties of the budget-maker.

Now if we look ahead, we must also see that the Excise Department from which we expect and realise the largest amount of revenue to feed the administration is bound to be affected in the future. I mean that excise revenue is bound to be affected in course of time

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owing to the anti-tapping and the anti-drinking movements. It has been declared over and over again by the Government that it is not their policy to obtain *revenue* from the Excise or, at any rate, from the Abkari Department, and that it is their aim to reduce drink as much as possible so that in course of time the evil may be eradicated altogether. The cautious financier ought therefore to see that in course of time the revenue from the Abkari Department amounting to 20 or 25 lakhs of rupees must really be wiped out. If that is so, the so-called balancing of the budget must before long become not only difficult but almost impossible, the expenditure having gone up too high for the ordinary revenues of the State, which, with the existing resources alone, cannot increase to any appreciable extent.

Even assuming for the sake of argument that it may be possible and that the expenditure can be balanced, is, after all, balancing the budget an end in itself or a very desirable end in itself? If we look ahead do we not find circumstances which show that before long the Government would have to commit themselves to a very large expenditure of money in various directions? If we rest content by merely keeping our finances balanced according to the Financial Secretary, how are we to find funds? Take for instance the Education Department. The amount spent upon primary education, the free provision of which, I consider, is the primary duty of the Government, has increased to over 16 to 17 lakhs of rupees. Nevertheless, the percentage of school-going children actually attending schools at present is only 55·8. This is certainly a sad state of affairs and therfore the expansion of primary education is of very great importance. We have to provide accommodation in schools for over 45 per cent. more of the school-going population of the country. For the purpose of providing accommodation for them a great capital expenditure would be necessary. Assuming for the sake of argument that all the schools that are necessary for extending primary education will be built at the cost of the public, as they have been for some time past, the recurring expenditure upon primary education will be so great that Government will find it impossible in course of time to find funds for financing a scheme of universal primary education. Surely the Government cannot remain content with only 55 per cent. attending schools while the rest have absolutely no education at all. About nine years ago a bill to provide for compulsory primary education was introduced into this Council. But owing to the then financial condition of the country, it was not possible for the Council to accept it. Since then several municipalities in British India have accepted the policy of compulsory elementary education. I am quite sure that, but for the financial strain which fell upon the Government owing to the war conditions, the question would have been pressed again for serious consideration at the hands of the Government. Therefore, that is one question which will soon come up for consideration and for which a large amount of money will have to be found.

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Another problem which the Government will have to face is the pay and prospects of the vernacular school teachers. These vernacular school teachers are paid hardly better than the duffadars of certain offices. They are all men of moderate education and intelligence and probably most of them are married and have a family to maintain. How long are the Government going to allow these people to live with a family upon Rs. 14 per mensem? The teachers have long been agitating for the betterment of their salaries and prospects; but for the unsympathetic attitude of the department towards the movement, the agitation would have gone on and probably forced the hands of the Government to do something in that direction.

Another matter which I wish to bring to the notice of the Council is the demand on the finances which the Government have already recognised by appointing the University Committee for considering the question of the establishment of a local University. Whether it is to be a Travancore University or a *Pan*-Kerala University, I do not wish to enter into any detail except to indicate that, if this University is not intended to be a mere notice-board University but a really useful University, it is expected to cost a considerable amount of money in capital outlay as well as in recurring expenditure. According to the estimate provided for in the last University Committee's report, the capital expenditure itself would come to about Rs. 61 lakhs and the recurring expenditure to Rs. 7 lakhs. That is another direction in which the Government will have soon to meet an expenditure and be forced to find funds.

Then, again, Sir, so far as I know, the Travancore Government have not yet paid any attention to what is known as poor relief. We know that, in the Municipal Regulation, provision has been made for preventing vagrancy and begging in the streets. Nevertheless we know the heart-rending sight we see every day in the streets of the important towns of the State and in market places of hundreds of beggars troubling the wayfarers for the purpose of getting alms and exposing loathsome wounds and contagious diseases. Now, that is a problem which the Government will have soon to tackle, and that also will require money; and as the Government cannot put off providing for that to any indefinite future, the question must soon arise for decision, and funds will have to be found for that.

Then again, Sir, the Development Departments are every day clamouring for more and more funds. Whatever may be our opinion in regard to the success which these departments have attained till now, that these departments are full of potentialities for the State in future cannot be denied; and the Government will have, in future, from year to year, to increase the expenditure and allot larger sums of money for the working of these departments.

The P. W. Department is very well kept up and very well paid from the standpoint of the officers of Government and their salaries. From the standpoint of the benefit directly accruing to the people from

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the allotment, very little attention has been paid. From an estimate which I made from the budget for this year, I find that little more than Rs. 1 lakh has been allotted for the purpose of original works, in the matter of 'communications'. For the taluk which I have the honor to represent, I find a sum of Rs. 5,832 has been allotted for original works--communications. That is one of the taluks of the State which require great development in this direction, for roads, bridges, culverts and canals are necessary for properly developing that taluk. Yet the amount of money allotted for that taluk is only Rs. 5,832. This, I submit, must be the condition of several other taluks in the northern parts of the State, such as Shertallai, Changanachery, Muvattupuzha, Todupuzha, and Minachil. These are places which require development by improving the communications and putting up decent buildings for schools and other purposes. Yet the allotment made for this purpose is very inadequate and unsatisfactory.

These are some of the directions in which the Government will have to meet a very great expenditure of money in future, and if we only keep on balancing our budget as the Financial Secretary has been trying to do, I do not know how we shall be able to find funds for meeting the needs of a progressive administration, if the expression 'meeting the needs of a progressive administration' is to mean anything at all. Of course, much has been said about retrenchment without unduly starving the needs of progressive administration. I submit these are directions in which the needs of a progressive administration are to be met, and if these needs are as a matter of fact starved, I do not know what justice there is in the claim that the needs of a progressive administration have not been unduly starved. In order to find funds for all these, retrenchment has to be made in directions which have already been pointed out by my friends on this side of the House and new sources of revenue have to be tapped. In regard to this retrenchment, it appears to me that the greatest condemnation of the Government was made by Mr. Karayalar who spoke in support of Government in many directions, because he seems to think that Government have created several appointments not because the Government felt the need for these appointments but as a result of the representations or requests by the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly members, the Legislative Council members or important citizens in the State and so on and so forth. I do not admit that this is true. But if there is any truth in this condemnation made by Mr. Karayalar of the action of Government, I think it is time that that is removed. The various directions in which retrenchment should be effected have already been mentioned; and I do not wish to go over them again. Several new sources of revenue have also been mentioned by the previous speakers; and I have nothing more to add in respect of them.

Now I have only one word more and I have done. That is with regard to the Finance Committee. I regret that there should have been any discussion in regard to the part that the non-official members of the

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Finance Committee took in its deliberations and I also deprecate—at any rate, I do not think that the Finance Member need have made such a claim for the infallibility of the budget on the ground that it was subjected to the close scrutiny of the members of the Finance Committee. Of course, the Finance Member himself knows more than anybody else or as much as any other member of the Finance Committee what it was that took place. All that Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai meant to say, I think, was that, taking into consideration the very restricted scope of the Finance Committee for shaping and guiding the policy of the Government in matters of retrenchment and the tapping of additional sources of revenue and so forth, the claim of the Finance Member that the budget is the result of the joint labours of the Finance Committee and the Government and that therefore it should be acceptable to the Council is not well founded. I think nothing more than that was meant by Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai, and probably that was felt necessary on account of the great claim made by the Finance Member. I do not wish to say anything more with respect to that.

Mr. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I beg to offer a few general observations on the budget estimates for 1099. At the outset, I may point out that the work of the non-official minority on the Finance Committee has been somewhat disappointing. On the one hand, it is contended that the non-officials were not given an opportunity of discussing new schemes involving additional expenditure, while, on the other hand, it is stated that the work of initiating measures involving additional expenditure ought not to be in the hands of non-officials. The non-official representatives on the committee will tell the House if they placed before the Finance Committee any scheme or plan for reducing expenditure or for adding to the efficiency and usefulness of the services, and if any of them were vetoed by the official majority. We are not, however, in a position to know what are the 58 new schemes contemplated in the budget. The impression left in my mind is that the joint labours of the Government and our representatives have resulted in bringing forth a mouse. For, the budget of 1099 differs in no material particular from that of 1093. The same old hopes and fears are there. It may be called a deficit budget or a surplus budget according to the temperament of the critic or the angle of vision he chooses to take. I am not sure if much constructive ability is required to make up the fall of revenue in one department by a proportionate cut in one of the spending or development departments.

I am sure the Council is not in a position to know whether the money sanctioned by it last year has been well spent or not. To know this, it is necessary that the actuals of the preceding year as well as the administration reports of the departments must be before the Council, when it is called upon to vote on grants for the succeeding year. I would suggest that, if necessary, the financial year may be made to commence some time after the close of the calendar year. However, it is a matter of the utmost importance that the annual reports of the working of each department should be made available to the non-officials of the Council.

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It has become a fashion for the Financial Secretary as well as heads of revenue-yielding departments to indulge in expressions such as "economic dislocation", "trade depression", "financial stringency" and so forth. I have not been able to understand what data the officers have for using these and kindred expressions. There has been no economic survey of the country. From the volumes of statistics published by the Government, I find hardly any justification for applying these terms to the conditions in Travancore. Statistics show that the total value of trade rose steadily from Rs. 629 and odd lakhs in 1088 to Rs. 747 and odd lakhs in 1092, to Rs. 904 and odd lakhs in 1094, to Rs. 1,140 and odd lakhs in 1096 and to Rs. 1,234 and odd lakhs in 1097. If the value of imports is at all an indication of the purchasing power of the people, it will be seen that it rose steadily from Rs. 241 and odd lakhs in 1088 to Rs. 336 and odd lakhs in 1094 and to 493 and odd lakhs in 1097. I am, therefore, curious to know the Financial Secretary's reasons for saying that Travancore was seriously affected by the economic dislocation elsewhere, along with all the provincial Governments and several of the Indian States. I contend that there has been hardly any necessity to adopt "a cautious and prudential policy" in regard to the finances of the State and that the policy adopted has been anything else than cautious and prudential. We find the revision of salaries has brought about a recurring expenditure of Rs. 86 lakhs annually, without proportionately adding to the efficiency of the services. Mr. George claims to have continued the process of lopping off unnecessary appointments; but he is careful to add, "as opportunities offered themselves". The Council will be glad to hear if the opportunities alluded to, are anything but the death or retirement of incumbents, (*laughter*) for many of whom the respective places have been specially created.

Mr. Mackie, who is the Manager of a business concern, perhaps bigger than the South Indian Railway Company, has rightly pointed out the causes that lead to the loss in the railway management. There could be no severer and more authoritative condemnation of the management of the railway. The question of railway management is unfortunately a forbidden ground for the non-official members. In answer to my interpellation, it was stated that the Council could not be allowed to have even a peep at the agreement with the South Indian Railway Company. I appeal to the Law Member to look into this document and tell the House if the Government are really in such a hopelessly helpless condition as not to be able at least to check the accounts of the company. (*Laughter.*) If the Law Member's opinion is unfavourable, Government might well adopt one of two courses. Either refuse to make good the deficit, in which case all the Company's accounts could be scrutinised in a court of law (*laughter*) or adopt Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai's suggestion of assessing the Company for income tax, when all the accounts will have to be laid bare before Mr. Robinson. (*Laughter.*) Anyhow, it is high time that the Government do look into this matter.

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I regret that the sagacious warning thrown out by Mr. Krishna Aiyangar regarding the investment in the Cochin Harbour was not given due consideration by the Government. At the time of the general discussion, this time last year, the Deputy President pressed for an answer to his question why the provision for the Cochin Harbour scheme was said to have lapsed and why no provision was made for the purpose in the budget of 1098. Of course, he said he would wait for the answer if the question was in a stage of confidential discussion and negotiation. He waited and all of us waited; and the answer has been the investment of Rs. 3 lakhs in the business. I do not share Mr. Krishna Aiyangar's optimism that the scheme will stimulate the external trade of Travancore. With due deference, I beg to differ from him and hold just the contrary opinion. I understand that one of the Port Officers at Alleppey had submitted a scheme for the development of a harbour at Neendakara in Quilon. I am told that it is possible to construct a harbour at Quilon to hold about 200 vessels, at a cost of about Rs. 3 lakhs. We are not in a position to know what share of the cost of the Cochin scheme will have to be borne by Travancore. We are sure that the participation in the Cochin scheme would annihilate all hopes of Travancore, with all its natural facilities, ever having a harbour of its own.

The speech of the Financial Secretary is barren of suggestions for developing the resources of the State. We have not been told what the sure sources of recurring revenue are, to meet the ever-growing recurring expenditure. I agree with Mr. Madhava Variar in the suggestions made for tapping new sources of revenue. If the suggestions are not accepted and acted upon, we shall soon have to face a deficit for meeting which new taxation will have to be resorted to. That is a contingency which has to be averted at any cost.

Again, we are not aware how the deposits with the Government are being disposed of. It is necessary that the deposits bearing interest should be invested in reproductive projects which would fetch a higher rate of interest than that which the Government have undertaken to pay. In France and other countries, they are automatically transferred to the Co-operative Department where they would fetch a higher rate of interest.

I regret to notice that the Rs. 4¾ lakhs received on account of the enhancement of the duty on salt and Rs. 2¼ lakhs expected to be realised in the coming year are treated as ordinary revenue. This sum belongs to the poor and I would strongly urge that the whole amount be invested in some reproductive scheme which would benefit even the humblest and the poorest citizen in the State, such as irrigation works, or the connecting of the Quilon-Shencottah with the Shoranur-Cochin line. To employ it otherwise would be an injustice to the poor. In this connection, I may point out that Government would have done well if they had given up the "recoveries on account of charges incurred in the sale of salt". In 1097, the charges under this head came up to Rs. 2,83,251. It cannot be said that the actual cost of supervision

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and transport is more than one anna in the maund. The abolition of this charge would have reduced the price of salt by about eight annas per maund and would have been gratefully appreciated by the poor people.

It is a matter for great consolation that the possibilities of economy and retrenchment are fully recognised by the Government. At the time Mr. Kunjitomman brought his resolution to curtail the salaries of officers in such a way that it may not exceed 30 per cent. of the total revenues, I had some hesitation in accepting the resolution. Since then, I had the privilege of working on the Government Press Committee. It was found possible, in that institution, to reduce the cost under salaries of the employees by about Rs. 500 a month. My non-official colleagues on the committee and myself have since been convinced that appreciable reductions could be made in the cost of salaries by abolishing superfluous posts and amalgamating others, without in the least impairing the efficiency of the services. The Judicial, Police and Excise Departments may be mentioned as instances where there is prolific waste in salary. By a careful and judicious application of the pruning knife, the present percentage of salary to revenue could be cut down by 7 per cent. or more. At the time of the discussion of Mr. Kunjitomman's resolution, the Financial Secretary stated that some retrenchmant could be effected here and there, for which he contended that a committee is not necessary. I regret to find that Mr. George has made no mention in his speech about the retrenchment he undertook to effect in salaries. I think that, by the appointment of a committee, a reduction of some lakhs could be effected in this direction.

It is high time, Sir, that the Government do pause and take note of the increase under education. The cost is going on alarmingly increasing. I do not think it the duty of the State to provide free of cost anything more than primary education, irrespective of caste or class. I am not satisfied that the system of education now followed is of the right sort. The Director has laid down the same prescription whether the pupil is the son of an officer, farmer, merchant, weaver, potter, blacksmith, barber or washerman. I am of opinion that a very considerable reduction in expenditure could be made by the abolition of several of the Higher Grade Vernacular Schools and by the amalgamation of the Higher Grade Vernacular and Lower Grade Secondary Schools, as in Cochin and Mysore. The cost of education has become prohibitive also from the standpoint of the parent or the guardian of the pupil. The cost incurred in buying note-books for the present-day student would have been enough to meet all his educational expenses a few years ago. The Council will have to tackle this problem very seriously during this session.

The starving of the P. W. D. allotment under communications, the policy of the present Chief Engineer in putting obstacles in the way

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of expenditure of the allotted sums, the inability of the Forest Department to compete with Burma teak, the treatment of the Development Departments, the money spent by the experts in experimenting in oil and leather, as if we could not take advantage of the results of the study and research made elsewhere, the method of land records maintenance and the administration of justice are matters which require more than a passing reference.

I trust that all these matters will receive that serious and dispassionate consideration of the House which they deserve, as each demand is being voted upon.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Sir, the budget that has been so ably presented by the Financial Secretary shows that we have made a further progress in the shaping of our budgets. For, it is a document in the production of which both the Government and the representatives of this Council jointly laboured. Though the function assigned to our representatives in the framing of our budgets was only advisory, I have no doubt that they will be given more and more powers, in course of time if they work in a spirit of confidence and sympathy. Anyhow the creation of a Finance Committee is a distinct advance and the participation of our representatives in the deliberations of the committee are bound to produce immense good to the country. Mr. George therefore claims a cordial reception of the budget at our hands. For my part, I may assure him that there will be no lack of cordiality wherever it is possible for me to show.

We have again to complain about the late production of the budget for the next year and the late arrival of the preliminary edition, as it is called, into our hands. It would be a great advantage to the several departments and to the members of this Council if the budget discussion is held in the Medam session.

The Government and the Financial Secretary have to be congratulated that they have been able to balance the budget without resorting to new taxation; but not the people of Travancore who have been burdened by the enhancement of the salt duty by an authority over which we have no control, and nobody need grudge if Mr George has taken advantage of this windfall in balancing his budget. The budget under discussion, however, appears to be a record of the struggle which the Financial Secretary has apparently made to withstand the demands made by the other departments. I am quite sure that he has put up a very brave fight against the demands made by my friend Mr. Natesa Aiyar and by his other colleagues for new schemes of communications and other works of public utility. He had evidently to shut his ears and eyes against the clamours of the taxpayers of North Travancore for railway extension and irrigation projects which are overdue.

Nevertheless, Mr. George refers to 58 new schemes of development in his budget speech, hatched no doubt with the help of our representatives. When I listened to that portion of his speech, I thought by the end of next year our country would be a veritable paradise. But on scrutiny the whole thing turned out to be a case of the mountain bringing forth a mouse. These 58 new schemes are only petty undertakings

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of an experimental kind. If some portions of the money allotted for these 58 new schemes were set apart at least for the preliminary work connected with the railway extension to North Travancore, people would have been more satisfied. (*Hear, hear.*) We are very much gratified to see that Government are abandoning extravagant designs in buildings and works of an ornamental nature and are diverting as much expenditure as possible from buildings to communications and other works of public utility. The Chief Engineer's office, the Vanchiyur School and the office of the Director of Public Instruction amply testify to the fact that the authorities were once playing ducks and drakes in ornamental buildings with the taxpayer's money; and I take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the wholesome change of policy inaugurated by the present Dewan and to congratulate the Government and the Financial Secretary for steadily keeping up this policy in this budget as well.

It is also a matter for sincere congratulation that the Government are continuing the process of lopping off unnecessary appointments as opportunities offer themselves and that strict economy is effected in the use of stationery articles and in the matter of travelling allowances and contingencies. But it is still contended that there is plenty of scope for further cuts without inconveniencing the people. The recent appointment of a Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner as the head of the Land Revenue Department is a new creation. There are also eight Division Assistants engaged in the several districts in land revenue and incometax work. It is said that the old Dewan Peishkars and the new Land Revenue Commissioner differ on many points and frictions sometimes occur. The Dewan Peishkars and the Commissioner of Devicolam may very well disappear and three or four District Magistrates may be appointed in their places with less pay, and the separation of the Magistracy from the Executive made complete. With this reform the complaints of the non-caste Hindus and non-Hindu subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja will also disappear. Government also will have the peace of mind that they have not acted against the traditions of the service in appointing as Peishkar a non-caste Hindu or a non-Hindu.

The amalgamation of the Sanitary and Medical Departments has very often been suggested. In my opinion there is scope for further reduction in the staff of the P. W. D. We are no doubt aware of the cuts already made in this department for which we feel grateful. As I passed through the pages of the P. W. D. budget, I have marked out the retention of an officer worthy of mention in this connection. On page 154 of the budget, we find a provision for a Sub-Engineer on Rs. 300 per mensem to superintend the Guest House. One fails to understand the propriety of employing such a highly qualified and highly paid officer to watch the Guest House when we have ever so many engineers in the town. He deserves a cut and an immediate cut too. (*Laughter.*)

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There is a general complaint that we are spending too much on service by way of salaries. It is argued from the official side of this House that for efficient administration the 37 per cent. we are spending on the service should be considered as cheap. But it is contended from the non-official side that it should be made cheaper. I am one who believes in a good service rather than in the so-called efficient service. I would rather prefer a man of average ability provided he is honest and impartial in the discharge of his official duties. (*Hear, hear.*) In that respect, there is a loud complaint against our service, especially the subordinate service, and the officers of the higher service take no account of the honesty or uprightness of the officers concerned and promotions are given mainly on the paper efficiency placed before them. The result is that our service has become corrupt and extremely unpopular. For my part, I would not grudge to pay our officers decently, provided they are honest and impartial. Another complaint we very often hear about our service is that it is sectarian and that equal opportunities and due representation are not given to all classes of His Highness' subjects. This is evident from the large number of interpellations we get at each session of the Council. It seems necessary that Government should carefully look into the matter and shape a more satisfactory and wholesome policy at least so far as new appointments are concerned.

The increase of revenue from the resale of toddy shops has been referred to by the Financial Secretary. I have my own doubts whether it is a matter for joy or regret in these days of temperance and prohibition. The avowed policy of Government has been not to reckon abkari as a source of natural income, but to look upon it as a revenue imposed as a punishment on drink. It is sincerely hoped that the Government and the Excise Commissioner will steadily keep in mind this aspect of the abkari question and would give it some practical shape by the reduction of shops, etc.

I am sorry to find that the Shencottah-Quilon railway continues to give us anxiety and trouble. The whole thing seems to be shrouded in mystery. Nobody has been able to give us a satisfactory account of the real situation. It was once announced that the extension of the railway line to Trivandrum was attended by a surplus income from that source. Next year, we were told that there was gradual fall in spite of the large increase in the rate of fares. It was then explained that the company had invested nearly Rs. 15 lakhs for the purchase of new rolling stock, the whereabouts of which nobody is sure. We are also told that the debentures had to be renewed at the high rate of interest prevailing in the London money market at the time and that the working expenses have also largely increased. One thing is plain from all these, *viz.*, that we are not to get any profit out of our railway, but we should continue to pay to the South Indian Railway Company large sums every year. The sooner we make an end of the affair the better for us. A careful looking into the matter and a more dexterous dealing with the subject seem to be necessary.

Coming to the expenditure side, the Education Department stands pre-eminently high like a *rakshasa* ready to consume any amount of

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[Mr. Joseph Panjikaran.]

money. One conspicuous feature of our budgets for the past several years has been the amazing growth of the expenditure on education as the result of the new educational policy introduced by Dr. Mitchell. The result was the sudden growth of departmental schools like mushrooms in every part of the country at the cost of many a private school. Dr. Mitchell's name is still remembered in the country as the greatest enemy of the private schools. It was he who declared a war against private institutions. Government soon found the mistake and had to relax the rigidity of Dr. Mitchell's Code in favour of private schools and it may be said to the credit of the successors of Dr. Mitchell that they have been more and more sympathetic towards private agencies. Still the old spirit of antagonism has not entirely left the department. Sir, if the department and the Government show a little more sympathy and encouragement towards aided schools there are several private agencies in my constituency ready to relieve the department of its unbearable burden. Sir, I know that the present administration is in favour of surrendering more departmental schools to private agencies which could be worked more economically by them. But the departmental subordinates seem to raise a hue and cry about such attempts, because they rightly or wrongly think that their prestige would thereby suffer. I should think that Government should attempt at some plain speaking in the matter.

I should also like to say a word or two in regard to the Public Works Department. I am glad to find from the budget under discussion that more attention has been bestowed on the wants of northern taluks in the matter of communications. I press one point here for the attention of Government and the Chief Engineer, *viz.*, to avoid the unpardonable delay shown by the department in completing a road or bridge once begun by the department. When once a work is begun it should be pushed through and completed without delay. It is a painful thing for a tax-payer to look at the wastage and leakage that result from the delay. I may also mention in this connection that the spirit once exhibited by the ryots in making their own roads in north Travancore is slowly dying out probably for want of encouragement.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Sir, the Financial Secretary seems to be labouring under a mistake. He seems to think that healthy administration consists in showing a surplus at the end of the year and the ability of a budget-framer mainly consists in preparing a surplus budget. A deficit at the close of the year is certainly to be avoided unless we are compelled to it by circumstances beyond our control. But when the course of events in the year goes to indicate a surplus revenue, I think healthy administration and sound statesmanship consist in foreseeing this result and employing the surplus revenue to the pushing on of public works, especially means of communication that are incomplete. If Mr. George had told us that the Government, foreseeing that there would be a surplus revenue this year, had employed that

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surplus revenue for the completion of such public works, I would certainly have congratulated him. I hope that, in future at least, the Government will adopt this safe and salutary policy of utilising the surplus revenue for pushing on public works.

Now, Sir, the Financial Secretary's much boasted "appreciable surplus" of this year is not at all a matter for congratulation. First of all, the windfall referred to in the Financial Secretary's speech was not of the Financial Secretary's making. It was an unexpected stroke of Providence which has saved us from a difficult financial situation.

The next item which has contributed to this surplus revenue is the surrender of funds by the P. W D. Sir, I understand that surrenders from the P. W. D contribute a great share to the surplus revenue of this year. As an instance, I might say that out of Rs. 50,000 allotted for the Alleppey-Shertallai Canal, only Rs. 31,000 is expected to be spent till the close of the year. That means that about Rs. 19,000 has to be surrendered by the department. There are other instances as well. Sir, to starve public works, especially, means of communication, and show a surplus is very unsound administrative policy. It is really undermining the commercial and industrial life of the country. Roads, railways, canals and other means of communication are the blood-vessels of a country's industrial and commercial life. Such surrenders by the P. W. D. of amounts budgeted for improving means of communication should not be allowed except under very extraordinary circumstances.

The control exercised by the Government over the P. W. D. does not seem to be satisfactory. The budget, as it is, does not enable the public to have any idea of the progress of the work done in the course of the year. It generally happens that the officers of the P. W. D. remain idle for a greater portion of the year and when the year would be drawing to a close, they would be seen rushing through the work, or rather rushing through the allotted amount or a greater portion of the same and surrendering the remainder. This kind of rushing through with lightning speed entails a good deal of waste and affords ample opportunity for malpractices. So I would make a humble suggestion for future guidance in the preparation of the budget relating to public works. In the detailed budget estimate under the P. W. D. there is a column showing the probable expenditure during the current year. This does not show whether any work is actually done or whether it is only being rushed through towards the end. This column might with great advantage be divided into a few sub-columns or a few new columns added showing the amount of money actually spent during stated intervals and the last column showing the probable expenditure during the remaining portion of the year. This will enable the public to know the progress of the work and prevent the officers from rushing through the work in the winter season. The budgeted amount for the improvement of the Shertallai town and Tannirmukkam roads is Rs. 9,000 for the year 1098. The "probable expenditure" column for the year shows Rs. 10,000. I could not believe this. So I requested the Chief Engineer to give me a statement of the money actually spent on these works. The reply that I got was that detailed statements were

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[Mr. Joseph Panjikaran.]

not available in this office and that the information has to be obtained from the Executive Engineer. Most probably the work is only being rushed through. Is it not, I beg to submit, a highly regrettable thing that at the close of the year the Chief Engineer is not in a position to show the actual amount of money spent during the year on the public works undertaken and conducted in the State?

Now, Sir, I pass on to the budget laid before the House for the year 1099. The Financial Secretary claims it to be a very wonderful production because he says that it was "not mysteriously hatched in the secret recesses of the Secretariat", but openly hatched in the light of day and in the presence of the representatives of this House. The members of the Finance Committee have not clearly told us what part they played in this wonderful production.

In my opinion, the present budget is not in any way better than its predecessor. The most urgent and pressing needs of the people do not seem to have seriously engaged the attention of the budget-framers. The backward taluks have not received that attention, care and sympathy which they do really deserve. Not even their pressing necessities have been provided for. I have the honor, Sir, to represent in this House, Shertallai, one of the biggest, most populous and richest, but at the same time the most unhappy and the most neglected taluk in the whole State. It comprises a sandy area of about 117 square miles with a population of 1,380 souls per square mile. The total revenue collected under different heads comes to about Rs. 12 lakhs a year.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Not quite correct. A portion of it does not seem to have been from Shertallai. I by claim to a part of Shertallai. (*Laughter.*)

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): But I would remind my friend that a portion has been added to Shertaliai when a portion has been taken away.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): That is all right, but the figure—

PRESIDENT: Order, please. What have you to say, Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I thought the figures quoted were not of this year.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): No, no. It is according to the Census Report placed in our hands this year and also according to the re-arrangement that has been brought about. The total revenue collected under the different heads comes to about Rs. 12 lakhs a year. The cultivation of cocoanut trees and the growing of paddy are the principal occupations of the inhabitants. With all these the inhabitants are most unhappy and miserable. I shall briefly examine the reasons.

The cocoanut trees on which we depend for our daily bread have to be watered during the whole summer season. Owing to the rise in

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wages and other economic causes, many cocoanut gardens have not been watered during this year. The watering difficulties will only increase as years advance, and the cultivation of cocoanut trees in the sandy regions of Shertallai will become impossible if some scientific method of watering be not introduced into the taluk. The present budget shows that the Government do not even seem to know this great problem confronting the wealth of the taluk and the welfare of the people.

Again owing to the soaking of husks in stagnant waters in tanks and pools and to other causes, the mosquito trouble, leprosy, elephantiasis and other diseases are on the increase on the sandy coast regions. Seven per cent. of the population are suffering from elephantiasis and about one per cent. of the people are lepers. What have the Government done till now to alleviate these miseries and what do the Government propose to do for the coming year? Sir, I am not unaware of the fact that one supernumerary in the Medical Department has been deputed and sent to Shertallai for associating himself with mosquitoes. (*Laughter.*) He has given chloroform to mosquitoes and is examining them. (*Laughter.*) But no beneficial result has yet been found.

Coming to means of communication, I cannot but say that the present Government does not seem to be sufficiently sympathetic towards Shertallai. The incomplete town roads and the Tannirmukkam roads already referred to are the only roads in the whole taluk. The town-roads are disconnected here and there. The Shertallai-Tannirmukkam road, 3½ miles long, is practically of little use for want of two bridges. About these bridges, on the Tannirmukkam road I have been constantly reminding the Government, and the Government were promising that these bridges would be completed by the end of this year. The year is closing. Not even one of the bridges has been erected. Not only that. There is no provision for the bridges even for the coming year. Sir, is this not really unkind and unsympathetic? Your reply to our Assembly member is really heart-rending and calculated to drive us to despair. Of the many needs of the taluk he placed before the Government only the most urgent and pressing ones. The member's request was :

"The several roads in the taluk should be linked together and made cartable and two bridges should be constructed over the Alleppey-Shertallai canal, one to the west of the Munsiff's court and the other to the west of the taluk cutcherry. Early repair to the present bridges over the Palli *thodu* was urged. The road from Shertallai to Tannirmukkam, which was three miles long, should be completed and two elevated bridges constructed on that road, one over the Kattachira river and the other over the canal running to the east of that river. Another road, 3 miles long from the Shertallai town westward to Arattinkal, should be opened and the same made cartable. A canal 2½ miles long should be opened connecting Muttattu *kayal* with Pozhichal in the Vayalar west *pakuthi*, both in the interests of agriculture and as a means of communication. The member observed that the canal would not cost much, as there were small *thodus* along the way which might be made to form part of the same, and that it would be of great service to the public resorting to the Shertallai market. He added that, besides being a short-cut from Shertallai to Cochin, that canal would be of great help to the transport of manure to the cocoanut gardens in that part of the taluk. The bund at Pullanchira might be put up and maintained properly so that the ingress of salt water into the adjoining paddy fields might be checked. He also suggested the construction of a sluice at the spot".

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The Dewan's reply was :

"We are spending money on the big project of the Alleppey-Shertallai canal. As I have stated in my Address, we spent over one lakh of rupees last year on the acquisition of land and another half a lakh on the construction of the canal and connected works. Apparently, you do not want so much money to be spent on that single work. You consider that money should be spent on works which are not so big, but which are, in your opinion, more urgent. In view of what you say, Government will have no objection to reduce the grant for the Alleppey-Shertallai canal and divert a portion of the money, say Rs 25,000 or Rs. 30,000 on other small works. Anyhow, the matter requires closer investigation".

Then the Dewan added :

"Then you want a road from Shertallai to Arattinkal. This is a very costly work. Roads in Shertallai are very costly".

"The fourth work you refer to is the opening of a *thodu* from Muttattu *kayal* to Padinjare *kayal*. That has been estimated to cost about Rs. 50,000 excluding land compensation which will also come to a substantial amount, since the *thodu* has to pass through big cocoanut plantations. All these works are very costly. We will divert money from the Alleppey-Shertallai canal work and spend some amount on these works every year".

Now, Sir, by looking into the budget I see that the amount generally allotted for the Alleppey-Shertallai canal is reduced as a matter of fact by Rs. 25,000. But I was trying, in vain, to see that minor work to which it has been directed. Sir, I know that Rs. 2,000 is allotted for the Arattinkal-Shertallai road ; but I beg to submit that the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for a work of that kind is simply like getting a grain of salt dissolved in a tub of water.

To add to these miseries, the inhabitants of Shertallai have to cross the dangerous Vembanad lake for all First Class criminal cases, criminal appeals, incometax appeals, etc., Kottayam being the seat of the headquarters of the division. Till the close of the official career of Sankunni Menon Peishkar of happy memory, Shertallai was the seat of the Division Peishkar. If that state of affairs had continued, the condition of Shertallai might have been much better to-day. But unhappily the Division Cutcherry was transferred to Kottayam and from that time onwards Shertallai began to be neglected. I am not for bringing back the Division Cutcherry from Kottayam to Shertallai. But I would suggest that a convenient portion of the sea-coast be separated from the other divisions and formed into a separate sea-coast division with headquarters at Shertallai. This will be a convenient arrangement from all points of view. But the reform requires some consideration and I only request the Government to look into the matter in the near future.

But, at present, one more Division Assistant must be appointed for the Kottayam Division with his headquarters at Shertallai and with jurisdiction over the taluks of Shertallai and Vaikam. Under the existing arrangement, the Division Peishkar of Kottayam has five taluks *viz.*, Muvattupuzha, Todupuzha, Minachil and the far-off and separated taluks of Vaikam and Shertallai under his direct control. This is a very inconvenient arrangement and makes the administration of the taluks inefficient. The Quilon Division has but 9 taluks as in the Kottayam

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Division. Now there are 3 Division Assistants in the Quilon Division, thereby leaving but 3 taluks under the direct control of the Peishkar. A comparison of the work to be turned out and other conditions prevailing in these two Divisions does not justify this distinction. (*Hear, hear.*) So I request that a Division Assistant be appointed for Shertallai and Vaikam with headquarters at Shertallai.

Sir, all these needs of the Shertallai taluk have been very often brought to the notice of the Government, but it is highly regrettable that in the framing of the budget the Government and the members of the Finance Committee have completely lost sight of the crying needs of this miserable taluk. I thank my friend Mr. Changanachery Paramesvaran Pillai for his kind reference to the Shertallai taluk but I would like to know whether he has made any suggestion to Government while he was jointly labouring in the Finance Committee on the subject.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): On behalf of Mr. Changanachery Paramesvaran Pillai and the non-official members of the Finance Committee and also on behalf of the official members, I may say that Shertallai did come in for a good deal of discussion.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): I thank you, Sir, for sympathy towards our taluk.

PRESIDENT: I am sure the official members are equally thankful to you, Mr. Velu Pillai. (*Laughter.*)

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Sir, to my mind there is no good in saying that roads in Shertallai are very costly. The improvement of the means of communication in the Shertallai taluk is a question which the Government cannot avoid. Why not then look the problem boldy in the face and solve it? An allotment of Rs. 2,000 for the Arattinkal road is certainly not looking the problem in the face.

The Alleppey-Shertallai canal is becoming a white elephant to Shertallai. Whenever any prayer is made for improving the means of communication in this taluk, the Government at once sallies forth with the reply that large sums are spent on the Alleppey-Shertallai canal. In the beginning the policy was to open the canal at both ends. So the work was commenced on the Alleppey side as well as on the Shertallai side. Now the work is pursued from the Alleppey side only, and the policy seems to be different. This is practically benefiting the town of Alleppey in the name of Shertallai. I have no objection in Alleppey being benefited; but all that I say is that, when public works are done in Ambalapuzha, it should not be said that they are being done in Shertallai. (*Laughter.*)

About the Interportal Convention and all those things, my friends of this side of the House have spoken very amply. The most important thing for the people of Shertallai is the improvement of their means of communication and I request the Government to be kind enough to spare some attention, at the time of the preparation of the budget to those growing needs of the taluk.

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[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

PRESIDENT: The House will now rise and meet again at quarter past three.

The House adjourned for lunch at 2-27 P. M. and re-assembled at 3-25 P. M.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN: *(Muvattupuzha:)* രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ നാനാഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും നികുതിരൂപേണ ഗവർൺമെൻറു സംഭരിക്കുന്ന ധനം ഇത്ര കഴിയുന്നതും സമഭാവനയോടെ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ എല്ലാഭാഗങ്ങളിലേയും ആവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കായി ചിലവു ചെയ്യണ്ടതു ഗവർൺമെൻറിന്റെ ധർമ്മമാണല്ലൊ. രാജധാനിപട്ടണമായ ഈ തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തും അധിക അസൌകര്യങ്ങളുള്ള ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും കൂടുതലായി ചിലവു ചെയ്യുന്നതു് ആക്ഷേപയോഗ്യമായിരിക്കയില്ലെന്നു മാത്രമല്ല സമഭാവനയോടെ വേണ്ട ചിലവുകൾ വളരെക്കാലങ്ങളായി ചെയ്യാതിരുന്നതു കൊണ്ടു പിന്നോക്കമായി തീർന്നിട്ടുള്ള ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ കൂടുതൽ ചിലവു ചെയ്യുന്നതു് എതുകൊണ്ടും ന്യായയുക്തവും ശ്ലാഘാവഹവുമായിരിക്കയും ചെയ്യും. ആവിരൂപേണ ആകാശത്തേക്കു പോകുന്നജലമെല്ലാം ഒരു പ്രകൃതിപ്രദേശത്തെ വർഷരൂപേണ പതിക്കുന്നു എന്നു വന്നാൽ മറുള്ള ഭാഗം ഉണങ്ങി വരണ്ടുപോയേക്കുമല്ലൊ അതുപോലെ എല്ലായിടത്തുനിന്നും സംഭരിക്കുന്ന മുതലെടുപ്പിനെ ചിലഭാഗങ്ങളിലെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കായി മാത്രം അധികമായി വ്യയം ചെയ്യുന്നതായാൽ മറു ഭാഗത്തെ ക്ഷേമത്തിനു വാട്ടം തട്ടാതിരിക്കയില്ല വിസ്തൃതമായ ഒരു കുടുംബത്തിലെ അംഗങ്ങളെല്ലാവരും കുടുംബാവശ്യത്തിനായി ഒരു പോലെ പരിശ്രമിക്കുമ്പോൾ അതിലെ ചില മൂലകളിൽ നിവസിക്കുന്നവർക്കു ശുദ്ധവായുവും വെളിച്ചവും ആഹാരവും വിഹാരവും വസ്ത്രവും ആഭരണവും മറു വേണ്ട സുഖസൌകര്യങ്ങളും നല്കുകയും മറു ചിലമൂലകളിൽ വസിക്കുന്നവർക്കു വേണ്ടിടത്തോളം വെളിച്ചവും വായുവും ആഹാരവുംപോലും നല്കാതിരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതായാൽ അതു നീതിക്കു യോജിച്ചതായിരിക്കയില്ലെന്നു മാത്രമല്ല, ആ കുടുംബാംഗങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ ഐകമത്യവും കുടുംബത്തിന്നു അഭ്യുന്നതിയും ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനു ബാധകവുമായിരിക്കും. ഈ നിലയിൽ ചിന്തിക്കുമ്പോൾ നൻ ലെബഡ്ജറ് എല്ലാവിധത്തിലും രാജ്യത്തിൽ അധികഅസൌകര്യങ്ങൾ അനുഭവിക്കുന്ന ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂർക്കു നൽവ ലെക്കാൾ ഒട്ടും തന്നെ ആശാസ്യകരമായിരിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നു പറയാതിരിപ്പാൻ മാർഗ്ഗം കാണുന്നില്ല. ഇതുയും മുഖവുരയായി പറഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടു ബഡ്ജറിലെ ഓരോ പ്ര

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ധനാഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ വ്യയപദ്ധതിയേപ്പറ്റി സപ്ലൂം വിമർശനം ചെയ്യാം.

ക. ഗതാഗതസൌകര്യം. തലസ്ഥാനനഗരത്തോട് അടുത്തു കിടക്കുന്നതും അധികം ഗതാഗതസൌകര്യം ഉള്ളതുമായ ദക്ഷിണതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലേക്കു റെയിൽവേ തുറക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള പ്രാരംഭവേലകൾക്കു ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ സംഖ്യ ചേർത്തിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും തലസ്ഥാനനഗരത്തു നിന്നു അധികം ദൂരമുള്ളതും യാത്രാസൌകര്യം തീരെ കുറവുള്ളതുമായ ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലേക്കു റെയിൽവേ തുറക്കുവാൻ പ്രാരംഭവിലവുകൾക്കായിട്ടെങ്കിലും യാതൊരുസംഖ്യയും ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ കൊള്ളിച്ചു കാണാത്തത് എത്രയും നിരാശാജനകമായിരിക്കുന്നുവെന്നു പറയാതിരിപ്പാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ മൂവാറ്റുപുഴ, തൊടുപുഴ മുതലായ ഉൾഭാഗത്തെ താലൂക്കു നിവാസികൾക്കു രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ തലസ്ഥാനനഗരത്തിലെത്തുവാൻ പ്രസിഡൻസിയുടെ തലസ്ഥാനനഗരമായ മദ്രാസിൽ പോകുന്നതിനേക്കാൾ രണ്ടോ മൂന്നോ ഇരട്ടി സമയവും ധനവും വ്യയം ചെയ്യുകയും ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടി പലവാഹനങ്ങളിലും മാറിക്കയറിയാത്രചെയ്യുകയും വേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. കോട്ടയത്തിനു വടക്കോട്ടുള്ള മെയിൻസെൻട്രൽ റോഡിന്റെ ചിലഭാഗങ്ങൾ ശരിപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനും പ്രജാസഭവഴിയായി മൂവാറ്റുപുഴ, തൊടുപുഴ, കുന്നത്തുനാട് മുതലായ ഉൾഭാഗത്തെ താലൂക്കുകളിലെ പ്രതിനിധികൾ ഗവർൺമെൻറിനെ തുടച്ചയായി അറിയിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരുന്നിട്ടുള്ള ചില റോഡുകൾ ആരംഭിക്കുന്നതിനും ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ പണം ചേർത്തു കാണുന്നതു കുറെ ആശ്വാസകരമെന്നു പറയാം. ഇതോ, ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ തന്നെ ഈ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ പറയിടുത്തുപോയി നേരിട്ടു അവിടുത്തെ അസൌകര്യങ്ങൾ മനസ്സിലാക്കിയതിന്റെ ഫലമാണെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. ചീഫ് എൻജനീയർ കൂടി ഈ സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ വന്നു കണ്ട് അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സംഖ്യയെ കീഴുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ പലപ്പോഴും ചെയ്യുവാറുള്ളതുപോലെ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കപ്പെട്ട വേലകൾക്കു ചിലവു ചെയ്യാതെ അണ്ടറുതിയിൽ ഗവർൺമെൻറിൽ മടക്കി ഏല്പിക്കുന്ന സമ്പ്രദായം പിന്തുടരാതിരിപ്പാനും അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സംഖ്യ പാഴ് ചിലവിനു ഇടവരാതെ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന വേലകൾ ഉടനെ നടത്തുവാനും വേണ്ട ശ്രദ്ധകൊടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. മെയിൻ സെൻട്രൽ റോഡു പലയിടവും വളരെ ചളിമയമായ കുഴികൾ കൊണ്ടു സഞ്ചാരയോഗ്യമല്ലാതെ തീർന്നിരിക്കയാണ്. ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ കൊള്ളിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന സംഖ്യകൊണ്ടു മാത്രം ബസ്സുകൾ ഓടിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം മെയിൻ സെൻട്രൽ റോഡു നന്നാക്കുവാൻ കഴിയുമോയെന്നു സംശയിക്കുന്നു. മോട്ടാർ വാഹനങ്ങൾ ശരി

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[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

യായി സഞ്ചരിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം മെയിൻസെൻട്രൽ റോഡ് അടുത്ത വർഷമെങ്കിലും ശരിപ്പെടുത്തിയിരുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറുകാരുടെ യാത്രാക്ലേശങ്ങൾക്ക ഒട്ടെല്ലാം കുറവുവരുമായിരുന്നു.

രണ്ടാമതായി എനിക്ക പറവാനുള്ളത് കൃഷിമരാമത്തുഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെപ്പറ്റിയാണ്. രണ്ടിനത്തിലായി രണ്ടരലക്ഷത്തിൽ ശിഷ്ടം രൂപാ ബഡ്ജറിൽ ചേർത്തു കാണുന്നു. രാജ്യത്തെ കൃഷിത്തൊഴിലിനുള്ള പ്രാധാന്യം നോക്കുമ്പോൾ ഇത് ഒട്ടും അധികമാണെന്നു പറയുവാൻ പാടില്ല എന്നാൽ അണയ്ക്കും, ചാനലുകൾക്കും, കുളങ്ങൾക്കും മറ്റുമായി കൃഷിമരാമത്തു കായ്ങ്ങൾക്ക കോടി രൂപായോളം ചിലവു ചെയ്തു കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള തെക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും മദ്ധ്യതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ചില താലൂക്കുകളിലും അല്ലാതെ ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ കൃഷിചെയ്യുങ്കാര്യമായി ഇതിൽ നിന്നും ഒരു പൈപോലും ചിലവു ചെയ്യുവാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടില്ലെന്നു ബഡ്ജറിൽനിന്നും കാണുന്നതു പരിതാപകരം തന്നെ.

മൂന്നാമതായി, വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവകുപ്പിനെപ്പറ്റി പ്രസ്താവിക്കാം. നവലക്ഷത്തിൽ ശിഷ്ടം രൂപാ ഇതിലേക്കു ബഡ്ജറിൽ ചേർത്തു കാണുന്നു. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവിഷയത്തിലും ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറാണ് പിന്നോക്കംനില്ക്കുന്നതെന്നും അവിടേക്കാണ് ഈ വിഷയത്തിലും കൂടുതൽ ചിലവു ചെയ്യേണ്ടതെന്നും ഗവർൺമെൻറു പ്രത്യേകം ഓർക്കേണ്ടതാണു. ഇംഗ്ലീഷു വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൽ വളരെ പിന്നാക്കം നിൽക്കുന്ന ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ മൂവാറ്റുപുഴ, തൊടുപുഴ, കുന്നത്തുനാട്, എന്നീ താലൂക്കുകളുടെ മദ്ധ്യത്തിൽ സ്ഥിതിചെയ്യുന്ന മൂവാറ്റുപുഴയിൽ ഒരു ഇംഗ്ലീഷു ഹൈസ്കൂൾ സ്ഥാപിച്ചു തരണമെന്നു വളരെ നാളായി ഗവർൺമെൻറിനോടു അപേക്ഷിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കയായിരുന്നു. മൂവാറ്റുപുഴ താലൂക്കു ഭ്രനിക്രതി വിഷയത്തിൽ രണ്ടാമത്തേതാണ്. ഒന്നരലക്ഷത്തോളം ജനങ്ങളുമുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ ഹൈസ്കൂൾ കെട്ടിടവും മറ്റും ജനങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കി കൊടുക്കണമെന്നാണ് ഗവർൺമെൻറു പറയുന്നതു്. ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ സമുദ്രതീരത്തോടു അടുത്തുള്ള വൈക്കം പറവൂർ എന്നീ ഹൈസ്കൂളുകളും മദ്ധ്യതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും തെക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും പല ഹൈസ്കൂളുകളും ഗവർൺമെൻറു തന്നെ സ്ഥാപിച്ചു നടത്തുന്ന സ്ഥിതിക്കു മൂവാറ്റുപുഴ ഹൈസ്കൂൾ രീക്കുന്നതിലേക്കു പകുതിവ്യയമെങ്കിലും ഗവർൺമെൻറു വഹിച്ചു കെട്ടിടം പൂർത്തിയാക്കി അടുത്ത വർഷം തന്നെ സ്കൂൾ ഫൈനൽക്ലാസ് ആരംഭിക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടതു ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണ്. മൂവാറ്റുപുഴ

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താലൂക്കിൽ നിന്നും കഴിഞ്ഞ പന്ത്രണ്ടു വർഷങ്ങൾക്കുള്ളിൽ പുതുവൽ തടിവില തറവില ഇനങ്ങളിലായി വിശേഷാൽ വന്നിട്ടുള്ള മുതലെടുപ്പു മാത്രം വിനിയോഗിച്ചാൽ അവിടെ ഒരു കോളേജു തന്നെ സ്ഥാപിച്ചു നടത്തുന്നതിനു മതിയാകും. അയൽ താലൂക്കുകളായ കുന്നത്തുനാടു, തൊടുപുഴ എന്നീ താലൂക്കുകളിലും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവിഷയമായി ഗവർൺമെൻറു പലതും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതുണ്ടു്. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസമുള്ള പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ തന്നെ കൂടുതൽ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനായി വേണ്ടതു ചെയ്തു കൊടുക്കുവാനല്ലാതെ ഇങ്ങിനേയുള്ള പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസപ്രചാരത്തിൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകാർ വേണ്ടപോലെ ദൃഷ്ടിപതിച്ചു കാണുന്നില്ല.

വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവിഷയത്തിൽ പിന്നോക്കം നിൽക്കുന്ന പുലയർ പറയർ മുതലായ വർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾക്കു് അവരുടെ ദാരിദ്ര്യം നിമിത്തം വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനു നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതെയിരിക്കുന്നു. അവക്കു പാഠപുസ്തകങ്ങൾ സൌജന്യമായി കൊടുത്തും മറും ഗവർമെൻറു സഹായിക്കേണ്ടതാണു. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവിഷയമായി ചിലവു ചെയ്യുവാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള നവ്യ ലക്ഷത്തിൽ പരം രൂപാ വിവിധവർഗ്ഗങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും പഠിക്കുന്ന വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കായി വീതിക്കുമ്പോൾ പ്രസ്തുതവർഗ്ഗത്തിൽപ്പെട്ട വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾ കുറവാകയാൽ അവക്കു് അവരുടെ ജനസംഖ്യയ്ക്കു് അനുസരണമായി കിട്ടേണ്ടിടത്തോളം സംഖ്യ വരുന്നില്ലെന്നു കാണാം. അതിനാൽ അവക്കു പാഠപുസ്തകങ്ങൾ സൌജന്യമായി കൊടുക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് അർഹതയുള്ളതിൽ കൂടുതലായപങ്കു ചിലവു ചെയ്യുണ്ടിവരുന്നു എന്നു വിചാരിക്കുവാനില്ല. ഒരു കുടുംബത്തിലെ ചെറിയ കുഞ്ഞുങ്ങൾക്കും പ്രായമായവക്കെന്നപോലെ ഉയരമുള്ള മേശപ്പുറത്തു ഭക്ഷണപദാർത്ഥങ്ങൾ വിളമ്പിക്കൊടുക്കുന്നപക്ഷം അവക്കു ഭക്ഷിക്കുവാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞില്ലെന്നുവരും. മാനസിക ആഹാരമായ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം ധനവിഷയത്തിൽ ശൈശവാവസ്ഥയിൽ ഇരിക്കുന്ന അവക്കു ഗവർൺമെൻറിൻെറ പ്രത്യേക സഹായം കൂടാതെ അനുഭവിപ്പാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതെയാണു് ഇരിക്കുന്നതു. അവരിൽ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനു വരുന്നവർ നന്നെ കുറവാകയാൽ ഇങ്ങനെ ചെയ്യുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു കൂടുതൽ പങ്കൊന്നും ചിലവു വരുന്നതല്ലെന്നു് ഉറപ്പായിത്തന്നെ വീണ്ടും പറയാം. തലമുറതലമുറയായി ഈ കൃഷികരാജ്യത്തു് ഔദ്യോഗത്തിൽ ഇരിക്കുന്ന വർഗ്ഗക്കാരേയും ഈ രാജ്യത്തിൻറെയും ഉൽകൃഷ്ടത്തിനുവേണ്ടി പ്രയത്നിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഇവരെ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ദയനീയാവസ്ഥയിൽ നിന്നും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം നൽകി ഉയർത്തേണ്ടതു ഗവർൺമെൻറിൻെറ ധർമ്മമാകുന്നു. ജനങ്ങളിൽ ഒരു വിഭാഗം വിദ്യാവിഹീനന്മാരായിരിക്കുന്നതു ഈ രാജ്യത്തിനു പൊതുവിൽ ശ്രേയസ്കരമായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല.

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[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

നാലാമതായി മെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറിനെപ്പററി പ്രസ്താവിക്കാം. ജനങ്ങളുടെ ആരോഗ്യത്തേയും ജീവനേയും കാക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറിലേക്കുള്ള വ്യയങ്ങൾകൊണ്ടു ചിലപ്പോഴൊക്കെ ചില ഡോക്ടർമാരുടെ അതിരററ അത്ഥാഗ്രഹത്താൽ സാധുക്കൾക്കു വേണ്ടിടത്തോളം ഗുണം ലഭിക്കാതെ പോകുന്നു. ജലമാർഗ്ഗമായോ കരമാർഗ്ഗമായോ വാഹനങ്ങളിൽ രോഗികളെ ആസ്പത്രികളിൽകൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിനു സൌകര്യമില്ലാത്ത ഉൾനാടുകളിൽ അവശതയിൽ കിടക്കുന്ന രോഗികളെ ആസ്പത്രിയിലേക്കു ചുമന്നുകൊണ്ടുപോകേണ്ടിവന്നാൽ അതിനാൽ തന്നെ രോഗം വർദ്ധിച്ചു മരിച്ചുപോയെന്നു വന്നേക്കും. ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള സംഗതികളിൽ ഡാക്ടരെകൊണ്ടുപോയി രോഗിയെ കാണിക്കുകയേ നിവൃത്തിയുള്ളൂ. ദൂരമനുസരിച്ചു ഇത്ര രൂപാ പടി കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു സാധുജനങ്ങൾ കൃഷിക്കുള്ള കാളയേയൊ, കിടക്കുന്നവീടോ, ആഭരണങ്ങളോ പണയംവെച്ചും വിറ്റും പണം കൊടുത്താലും ചിലർ തൃപ്തിപ്പെടാതെ ഇരിക്കുന്നു. പടിക്കുംപുറമെ ഒരു സംഖ്യകൂടി കൊടുത്തെങ്കിലെ ശരിയായി ചികിത്സിക്കാറുള്ളൂ. പടി എത്രയാണെന്നു മുൻപായി അറിഞ്ഞാൽ ശേഷം ഔദാര്യമായി കൊടുത്തതാണെന്നു രണ്ടുകൂട്ടർക്കും സമ്മതം വരത്തക്കവണ്ണം പടി വിവരം ഒരു ബോർഡിൽ സ്പഷ്ടമായി എഴുതി ആസ്പത്രികളുടെ ഭിത്തിമൽ തൂക്കേണ്ടതു് അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. ചില ആസ്പത്രികളിൽ ധാരാളം രോഗികളെ കിടത്തി ചികിത്സിക്കുന്നതിനു ഗവർൺമെൻറു ചിലവു അനുവദിക്കയും മറു ചിലതിൽ അനുവദിക്കാതിരിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നത് ഏതു തോതിനെ അടിസ്ഥാനപ്പെടുത്തിയാണെന്നു മനസ്സിലാക്കുവാൻ കഴിയുന്നില്ല. എൻെറ സ്വദേശമായ കോതമംഗലത്തെ ആസ്പത്രിയിൽ ചുററിലുമുള്ള മറു് ആസ്പത്രികളേക്കാൾ കൂടുതൽ രോഗികൾ വന്നുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു കണക്കുകൊണ്ടു കാണാം. ഇതിൽ പലരും തോട്ടങ്ങളിലും മറും പോയി രോഗം പിടിച്ചു സ്വദേശത്തേക്കു മടങ്ങുന്ന കൂലിക്കാരും മറുമാണു്. അവർക്കിടെ ഭവനമോ ബന്ധുക്കളോ ഇല്ല. ആസ്പത്രിയിൽ അവരെയും കിടത്തി ചികിത്സിക്കുന്നതിനു ഗവർൺമെൻറു ചിലവു അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുമില്ല. ചിലരെല്ലാം വഴിയിൽതന്നെ കിടന്നു മരിക്കാറുമുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ ഇതിനേക്കാളെല്ലാം രോഗികളുടെ സംഖ്യ കുറവായിട്ടുള്ള പലേ ആസ്പത്രികളിലും രോഗികളെ കിടത്തി ചികിത്സിക്കുന്നതിനു പടി അനുവദിച്ചു കാണുന്നുമുണ്ടു്. അതിനാൽ കൂടുതൽ ആവശ്യമുള്ളിട

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ത്താണ് രോഗികളെ കിടത്തി ചികിത്സിക്കുന്നതിൻ പട്ടി അനുവദിച്ചു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടത്.

അഞ്ചാമതായി കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ വ്യയങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി അല്പം പ്രസ്താവിക്കാം. ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നും അനുവധി പണം വ്യയം ചെയ്യുകയും വളരെക്കാലം പരിശ്രമിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടും സാർത്തരമായ പ്രയോജനമൊന്നും അതിൽനിന്നും ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ല. ആ സ്ഥിതിക്കു കൂടുതൽ സംഖ്യ ഇനിയും വ്യയം ചെയ്യുന്നതിന് അനുവദിക്കുന്നതു ഒരിക്കലും ബുദ്ധിപൂർവ്വമായിരിക്കയില്ല. ഒരുലക്ഷത്തിഎഴുപത്തൊൻപതിനായിരം രൂപാ ഇതിലേക്കു വ്യയത്തിനായി ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ചേർത്തിട്ടുള്ളതു് നാലിലൊന്നായി കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതായാലും രാജ്യത്തെ കൃഷിക്കു പറയത്തക്ക ദോഷങ്ങളൊന്നും വരാനില്ല. കുലിച്ചിലവിനത്തിനു തന്നെ പത്തൊൻപതിനായിരത്തിൽ ശിഷ്ടം രൂപായും ഒരു വലിയസംഖ്യ കന്നുകാലികളെ വാങ്ങുന്നതിനും ഒരു ഭീമമായ തുക വളം വകയ്ക്കും ചെലവു കാണുന്നുണ്ടു്. കുലിച്ചിലവു സംഖ്യ നന്നെകുറക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു യാതൊരു തരക്കേടും ഇല്ല. ഓരോതരംകൃഷിരീതിയും പരീക്ഷാർത്ഥം ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു ഏതാനും ഏക്കറിൽ കൂടുതലായി സ്ഥലം എടുക്കേണ്ടതാവശ്യമില്ല. ഏതാനും ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലത്തു പലതരം കൃത്രിമങ്ങളും കൃഷിചെയ്തു നോക്കാമായിരുന്നിട്ടും കോന്നിയിൽ ഏതാനും ഏക്കറിലധികം സ്ഥലം കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്നതിനു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നും പുറപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ളതു് അധികച്ചിലവിനു കാരണമായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു ഇതിൽനിന്നു ഒന്നും ആദായം ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതല്ല. ജനങ്ങളുടെ അറിവിനായി പരീക്ഷാർത്ഥം നടത്തുന്നതു പത്തേക്കറിൽ കൂടിയിരിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല. അന്യനാട്ടിൽനിന്നു കന്നുകാലികളെ അടുത്തവർഷവും വരുത്തുവാൻ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ പണം ചേർത്തിട്ടുള്ളതു് ദുർവ്യയത്തിനു കാരണമാകും. ഈ നാട്ടിലെ തീററിസാധനങ്ങളും ശീതോഷ്ണസ്ഥിതിയും വിദേശത്തു നിന്നും വരുത്തുന്ന കന്നുകാലികൾക്കു വേണ്ടതുപോലെ പററുന്നതല്ല. ബ്രിട്ടീഷ്ജില്ലകളിലെ കൃഷിക്കാർ അവരുടെ കൃഷിയിൽ നിന്നും കിട്ടുന്നതും വിശേഷാൽ വലിയ ചിലവുകൂടാതെ സംഭരിക്കാവുന്നതുമായ കമ്പം, ചോളം, പഞ്ഞിക്കുരു മുതലായവകൊടുത്തു് ഇവയെ രക്ഷിക്കുന്നതുപോലെ ഇവിടെ ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു കൃഷിക്കാക്കു വലിയ ചിലവു വേണ്ടിവരും. അങ്ങനെ ഇവയെ രക്ഷിച്ചു പോരുന്നതു കൊണ്ടു കൃഷിക്കാരനു നഷ്ടത്തിനല്ലാതെ ലാഭത്തിനു വകയില്ല. ഇതു പല കൃഷിക്കാരും അനുഭവിച്ചറിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. മുമ്പു വാങ്ങീട്ടുള്ള കന്നുകാലികളുടെ സ്ഥിതി പരീക്ഷിച്ചറിവാൻ കഴിയുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് ഇനി കൂടുതൽ ഈ വകയ്ക്കു ചിലവുചെയ്യേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല. വളം വിളനയേയും ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്

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[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

മെൻറിലെ മറവു പ്രവൃത്തികളേയും പററി ഇപ്പോൾ പറഞ്ഞു ദീർഘിപ്പിക്കുന്നില്ല. ചിലവു ചുരുക്കേണ്ടത് എത്രയും ആവശ്യമാണെന്നു വീണ്ടും പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ആറാമതായി ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ പടിയിനത്തിലുള്ള ചിലവുകളെപ്പററിയാണ് പ്രസ്താവിക്കുവാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നതു്. ഈ ഇനത്തിൽ വളരെ പണം ചിലവു വരുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും അതുകൊണ്ടു ഗവർൺമെൻറു ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നതൊ, ജനങ്ങൾ പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കുന്നതൊ ആയ ഗുണം വേണ്ടപോലെ ലഭിക്കുന്നില്ല. എന്തെന്നാൽ മേലുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഓരോ സ്ഥലത്തും സക്കീട്ടുചെല്ലുമ്പോൾ അതാതു സ്ഥലത്തെ കീഴുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽ നിന്നും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വല്ല ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകളും ഉണ്ടാകുന്നുണ്ടോ എന്നു അവിടെയുള്ള പൌരപ്രധാനികളോടു ചോദിച്ചറിഞ്ഞു കീഴിലുള്ളവരെ ശരിപ്പെടുത്തിക്കൊണ്ടു പോകുവാൻ തക്കമുള്ളവരായിക്കാണുന്നില്ല. മേലുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽ പലക്കും തങ്ങളുടെ അടുക്കൽ കീഴുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ അക്രമങ്ങളെപ്പററി പൌരന്മാരൊ, പൌരപ്രതിനിധികളൊ പറവാൻ ഭാവിക്കുന്നതു തീരെ രസിക്കുന്നില്ല. എല്ലാ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളുടേയും ചുമതല വഹിക്കുന്ന ദിവാൻജിഅവർകൾതന്നെ സക്കീട്ടിൽ ഓരോ സ്ഥലത്തേയും പൌരന്മാക്കും പൌരപ്രതിനിധികൾക്കും കാര്യങ്ങൾ പറവാൻ അവസരം കൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. അതുപോലും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ് അദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്മാർ ആദിയായവരിൽ പലരും ചെയ്യാത്തതു കഷ്ടംതന്നെ. ഇതുകൊണ്ടാണ കീഴുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽ പലരും കൈക്കൂലിക്കാരും ജനോപദ്രവികളുമായി തീർന്നിട്ടുള്ളതു്. വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽ ചിലരെല്ലാം വളരെ നല്ലവരാണെങ്കിലും അതുകൊണ്ടു മാത്രം മതിയാകുന്നതല്ല. തലയുടെ ശരീരത്തിൽ പ്രാധാന്യമുണ്ടെങ്കിലും കൈകാലുകളാണല്ലൊ മറവു വസ്തുക്കളുമായി ഇടപെട്ടുപ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നതു്. അതുപോലെ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു 'ഹെഡ്'സിനേക്കാൾ മദ്ധ്യതരത്തിലും താഴ്ന്നതരത്തിലുമുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരാണ് ജനങ്ങളോടു് അധികം ഇടപെട്ടു പ്രവൃത്തിക്കുന്നതു. അവരുടെ പ്രവർത്തിയുടെ ഗുണദോഷങ്ങളെ ആശ്രയിച്ചാണ് ജനങ്ങളുടെ സുഖദുഃഖങ്ങൾ ഇരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഈ നിലയിൽ നോക്കുമ്പോൾ മേലുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ സക്കീട്ടിൽ കീഴുള്ളവരെ പററി കൂടുതലായി അന്വേഷിച്ചറിഞ്ഞു രേഖപ്പെടുത്തുകയും അക്രമികളെ സ്ഥലം മാററിയും ശിക്ഷിച്ചുമറവും ജനോപദ്രവങ്ങൾക്കു ശമനംവരുത്തുകയും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതു് എത്രയും അത്യാവശ്യമാണു്. ചില

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ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ സക്കീട്ടിൽ തങ്ങളിൽ കണ്ടുമുട്ടി ലഹളയുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതായി ക്കൂടി കേട്ടുതുടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഞാൻ പ്രാതിനിധ്യം വഹിക്കുന്ന താലൂക്കിൽ എന്റെ വാസസ്ഥലത്തുനിന്നും ഉദ്ദേശം രണ്ടുമയിൽ ദൂരത്തു പബ്ലിക്കുറോട്ടിൽ വച്ചു ഈയിട പകൽ പ്രമാദമായ ഒരു ലഹള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ തമ്മിൽ നടന്നതായി നാട്ടുകാരുടെ ഇടയിൽ പരക്കെ അറിയപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിൽ വളരെ വാസ്തവമുണ്ടെന്നാണ് എന്റേയും ബോധം. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർതമ്മിൽ ഈ വിധമണെങ്കിൽ അവർ സാധുജനങ്ങളോടു എതുപ്രകാരമായിരിക്കും വർത്തിച്ചുവരുന്നതെന്നു പ്രത്യേകം പറയേണ്ടതില്ലല്ലൊ.

ഒടുവിൽ എനിക്കു പറവാനുള്ളതു ബഡ്ജറിൽ ആകെ ചിലവുവകയ്ക്കു വച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സംഖ്യയിൽ മുക്കാൽകോടിയോളം രൂപാ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളവും പടിയും ഇനങ്ങൾക്കായി വരുന്നതിനാൽ അതിനെ പറ്റിയാണ്. രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ നാനാഭാഗങ്ങളിലും വസിക്കുന്ന നാനാവർഗ്ഗത്തിൽപ്പെട്ട ജനങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും നികുതിയായി ഈടാക്കുന്ന പണത്തിൽ നിന്നാണല്ലൊ ഇപ്രകാരം മുക്കാൽകോടിയോളം രൂപാ ചിലവുവരുന്നത്. ഇതിൽ ൧൦ ശതമാനവും തെക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും മദ്ധ്യതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും ഉള്ള വക്കും ഏതാനും ചില സമുദായങ്ങളിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ട വക്കും മാത്രമാണെന്നു സ്പഷ്ടമാണ്. രാഷ്ട്രീയമന്ദിരത്തിന്റെ ഓരോ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളാകുന്ന മുറികളിൽ മുൻകൂട്ടി സ്ഥലം പിടിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളവർ തങ്ങളുടെ സ്വജാതിയരേയും സ്വദേശീയരേയും മാത്രമാണ് പ്രായേണ സ്വാഗതം പറഞ്ഞു ഉള്ളിൽ പ്രവേശിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ സന്നദ്ധരായി കാണുന്നതു്. മറുള്ളവരെ വാതിൽക്കൽ വച്ചുതന്നെ പുറം തള്ളിക്കളയുന്നു. ഓരോ ദേശത്തിനും ഓരോ വർഗ്ഗത്തിനും കണക്കനുസരിച്ചു തുക്കിയോ അളന്നോ സാധനങ്ങൾ പങ്കിടുന്നപോലെ പങ്കിടുവാൻ പാടുള്ളതല്ല ഗവർൺമെൻറു ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളെന്നു് എനിക്കു നല്ല ബോധമുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ വലുതായ അന്തരം, അതായതു ആറെണ്ണം അറുപതെന്നും ഉള്ള വിധമല്ല, അതിലും കൂടുതലായി ആറെണ്ണം നൂറെന്നും പ്രത്യക്ഷമായി കാണുന്ന വ്യത്യാസത്തെ കാഴ്ചക്ഷമതയുള്ള ഏവനിക്കുടാത്തവിധം പരിഹരിക്കുവാൻ ഉടനെ തുനിക്കേണ്ടതു ഗവർൺമെൻറിന്റെ ധർമ്മമാണെന്നു നീതിയുടേയും സമാധാനത്തിന്റെയും നാമത്തിൽ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. മുൻകാലങ്ങളിൽ ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും ചില സമുദായങ്ങളിലും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം കുറവായിരുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ ആ സ്ഥിതി വളരെ ഭേദപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. എങ്കിലും ഗവർൺമെൻറുദ്യോഗങ്ങൾക്കു ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലു

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ള്ളവക്കും ചില സമുദായങ്ങളിലുള്ളവക്കും അർഹതയില്ലെന്നുള്ള വിധം പല ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറിലേയും പ്രധാന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ പെരുമാറിവരുന്നതു നിറുത്തേണ്ടതാണു്. ഉദാഹരണമായി ഞാൻ ഉൾപ്പെട്ടതും ക്രിസ്ത്യൻ സമുദായത്തിലെ ഭൂരിപക്ഷം ജനങ്ങൾ അടങ്ങുന്നതും ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലുള്ള ഏതു സമുദായത്തോടും ജനസംഖ്യയിൽ കിടപിടിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം ന്യൂനപക്ഷത്തിൽ ശിഷ്ടം ജനങ്ങളുള്ളതുമായ കത്തോലിക്കാ സമുദായത്തെത്തന്നെ നോക്കാം. പല വിഷയങ്ങളിലും ബിരുദം നേടിയിട്ടുള്ളവരായ മുന്തിയ റിൽപരം ഉൽകൃഷ്ട പരീക്ഷാവിജയികൾ ഇതിൽ ഉണ്ടെങ്കിലും ഗവർൺമെൻറുദ്യോഗങ്ങൾക്കായി ഓരോ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറിൻറേയും പടിവാതിലുകൾ എത്തിനോക്കുവാൻപോലും ഇവരെ സമ്മതിക്കുന്നില്ല. ഈ സമുദായത്തിൽപെട്ട രണ്ടു ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്മാർ ഉണ്ടെങ്കിലും അവരും ഇവരിലാരേയുംതന്നെ തങ്ങൾ ചുമതലവഹിക്കുന്ന ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറുകളിൽ പ്രവേശിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ തീരെ സന്നദ്ധന്മാരായി കാണപ്പെടുന്നില്ല. ഇതിൻെറ കാരണം എന്താണെന്ന് അവർക്കും ഗവർൺമെൻറിനും മാത്രമെ അറിവാൻ പാടുള്ളൂ.

Mr. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Last year, the Financial Secretary displayed some skill in evolving a balanced budget which would have been a deficit one, had it not been for a cut of Rs. 5 lakhs made in the estimates of the Department of Public Works. This year his task appears to have been easier and he comes out with a surplus of Rs. 2 lakhs after providing for unusual and special items of expenditure to the tune of Rs. 8 lakhs. He claims a cordial reception for his budget, especially as it is, according to him, the production of the joint labours of Government and the representatives of this House in the Finance Committee. I do not know whether the reception we have accorded to this joint production would come up to the expectations of the Financial Secretary.

I believe that the creation of the Standing Finance Committee was more or less due to the trend of discussions in this House on the last year's budget and that Government have appointed that committee with a view to enable the representatives of this House to go more minutely than is possible in this Council into each item of expenditure and offer the non-official view thereon. Neither from the speech of Mr. George nor from the speeches of our representatives on the committee are we permitted to gather any idea as to what exactly has taken place at the meetings of the committee. We do not know whether they have approved all or any of the 58 new schemes that the budget admittedly contains. We are also ignorant whether Government have altered or dropped any one of the schemes at the instance of our representatives. In the absence of any information on the point and in view of the fact that Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai and Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai—two of the

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three members of the Finance Committee—differed in their opinion as to the contribution they have made in the preparation of the budget, I confess I do not therefore find my way to admit the claim put forward by Mr. George. Even assuming for the sake of argument that the Finance Committee had a real hand in the shaping of the budget, their labours could have related only to the expenditure side and not to the probable forecast of revenue for the year 1099.

While introducing the last year's budget, Mr. George reviewed the finances of the State for a period of ten years and then invited us to believe that the fears often expressed that we are drifting consciously or unconsciously into bankruptcy was groundless and that our financial outlook was not gloomy. Members on this side of the House could not share in this robust optimism of the Financial Secretary and his budget came in for a good deal of adverse criticism. Had it not been for the starving of the department of Public Works to the extent of Rs. 5 lakhs and for the fact that the Gods on the heights of the Himalayas had mercy on us—which mercy descended on us in the shape of the certification of the salt duty by the Viceroy—I do not know what would have been the nature of the optimism of the Financial Secretary who has to meet the unusual and special expenditure in 1099 to the tune of Rs. 8 lakhs. Salt duty gives us not less than Rs. 12 lakhs. If we have to allow for the normal growth in expenditure in our spending departments and to meet the special expenses due to *Murajapam* and the Delhi Palace, we would be on the wrong side of the budget at the end of 1099 to the extent of Rs. 10 lakhs, had it not been for the windfall of the salt duty. In spite of this unsatisfactory state of affairs, Mr. George claims that the lapse of a year has confirmed him in his former view that our financial outlook is not gloomy. I can only wish that we may have another windfall next year, not in the shape of this iniquitous salt duty which presses so heavily even on the meanest subject of His Highness the Maha Raja, but in some other and fairer shape so that Mr. George may be able to keep to his optimism and the State exchequer may have sufficient money to meet the growing expenditure of a progressive administration.

The forecast of revenue made by Mr. George last year did not prove true. It would be better to forecast more modestly. The expected revenue from the sale of Government lands was not forthcoming. The forest revenue has declined and it is not safe to assume that the forest revenue is not going to fall still further in 1099.

During the budget debate last year, pointed attention was drawn to several methods of augmenting the revenues of the State. A revision of the Interportal Trade Convention, the saving of the whole of the tea duty for our State, a duty on rubber, and a more economic management of the State railways ought to be taken up by the Government at the earliest opportunity possible. In future years, the growing requirements of our administration can be met only by tapping the above resources. We have almost reached the bedrock of taxation and unless Government have collected reliable data as to our national income and the balance of trade and thus established our capacity to bear more burdens the idea

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of resorting to fresh taxation has to be abandoned for a considerable time to come. Even the Gods will not always be merciful towards us; for Gods help only those who help themselves.

Now coming to the expenditure side of the budget, one has to note with satisfaction the incoporation in the budget of not less than 58 new schemes or items of expenditure. It is not easy to say whether they are all schemes making for the more efficient administration of the departments or for the development of the resources of the country. Anyhow, it involves an expenditure of Rs. 3½ lakhs. To that extent the Government and the Financial Secretary have to be congratulated. No doubt the robust optimism of the Financial Secretary enabled him to forge ahead with the initiation of new schemes probably expecting another windfall next year. I would however reserve my comment upon the various schemes until they come up for discussion during the demands for grants.

But I cannot help referring here to one or two items on the expenditure side of the budget. I would first deal with the provision of Rs. 50,000 for school fee concessions allowed to the depressed and backward communities in the State. I should be failing in my duty if I do not avail myself of this opportunity for expressing the gratitude of the communities concerned towards Government for this concession. I expected that Government would be congratulated by all fair-minded and tolerant citizens of this State for this wise and statesmanlike policy. It has caused me and men of my way of thinking great surprise that Government should have been found fault with for this concession from quarters from where it was least expected. Some sections of the Press also were loud in their cries against the concession. Yesterday two prominent members of this House expressed in no unmistakable terms their disapproval of the extension of this concession, more especially to an unfortunate class of people called the Ezhavas. Mr. Krishna Aiyangar said that concessions cannot be granted on principles of caste and Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai referred to the inconsistency of people asking for equality of treatment and concessions at the same time.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Louder, please.

PRESIDENT: Will you kindly speak louder.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I did not hear the last sentence. (*Laughter.*)

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I cannot but categorically deny all these statements and say in reply that here is a case of an application of a principle of law without studying the facts of the case.

The concession rates in school fees were being allowed to students of various castes and sects in Travancore for some time now. It is not a new institution of 1098. The Mahomedan community, not to speak of the Pulaya and the Paraya communities, was enjoying this privilege for many years. They have been shown several other considerations,

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special scholarships, etc. The Mahomedans have been given even a special High School in Alleppey at great expense to Government.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : May I know from the speaker whether he is in favour of the extension of the fee concessions to the *Nair* and the *Brahmin* communities ?

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*) : I shall have answered that question when I finish my speech.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) : Is it not a misapprehension on the part of Mr. Kumaran to say that I was not in favour of the concession being granted to the depressed and backward classes ? I only said that a similar help should not be withheld from the pupils belonging to other communities merely because it was their misfortune to be born in what are considered to be the higher castes. I thoroughly appreciate the desirability of giving the concession to the backward classes. I only objected to an omission.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*) : Mahomedans are a rich community.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*) : Mr. Kumaran spoke something about Mahomedans. I did not hear that. (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT : Please speak a little louder.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*) : Mahomedans are a rich community and Alleppey is their richest centre and yet it has never occurred to Mr. Krishna Aiyangar that this special treatment to Mahomedans was unjust or unwarranted. In all schools and colleges, Arts as well as Law colleges, Mahomedan students have concession. Yet it has apparently escaped the notice of Mr. Krishna Aiyangar and Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai. I do not think they can justify Government spending such large sums of money for Mahomedans while they would not allow even small mercies to the Ezhava students. I take it that it is not because the fact that several communities in the State are enjoying concession was not unknown to them but because hitherto the Ezhavas did not share in the privilage. I am entitled to draw this inference from their acquiescence in the past of the concession rates to others and from their raising this question in this debate and making pointed reference only to Ezhavas in their speeches. I should not be understood as speaking against the concessions and special treatment accorded to Mahomedans. I have referred to them simply to point out the genesis of this cry against concession rates. Even now Ezhava students are not given concession in the Arts College where they require it most, while Mahomedans and other communities enjoy the same privilege.

Now, let us view the question from another standpoint. Have my friends stopped to consider what induced the Government to extend this privilege to depressed and backward communities? To put it briefly, it was to make amends for the past sins of commission and omission perpetrated by Government for generations, nay centuries together. When English education was free, when Government invited students holding out great inducements to them to join

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the Maha Raja's English School where they were promised free education and offered employment in Sirkar service and up to the time when education was 300 or 400 times less costly than it is now, students of these backward and depressed classes were rigorously excluded from all schools and until recently, from State service, which was the sole incentive for resorting to that kind of education. Private individuals can afford to have short memories. But Government are what the lawyers call corporations sole. They continue to exist and must be responsible for their past conduct and treatment of the various classes of people. These communities had no rights but only burdens until recently. They were merely the helots of the State. The Government apparently existed for a few favoured communities. Education and Government service were their close preserves. Encouraged by a paternal Government and enjoying several privileges these favoured classes forged ahead in all directions. When the cost of education became prohibitive, Government began to throw open schools to these unfavoured classes. When the public service and learned professions became crowded and when qualified hands became easily available, admission to the public service was also given to them. It is idle to contend that all classes of people in the State are on an equal footing for the race of life, when Government themselves until recently denied such a claim. The unprivileged classes are seriously handicapped in their race of life, as the favoured communities have gone miles ahead of them. The depressed and backward communities are now struggling to stand upon their legs, not to speak of their incapacity to compete with the privileged classes in the struggle for existence. Owing to the poverty of these classes and the prohibitive cost of English education, Government thought it only just and fair that their backwardness in English and Malayalam education, as may be seen from the number of students attending schools, had to be removed by holding out the encouragement of concession rates in school fees until their literacy increased. I am therefore constrained to say that it does not fairly lie in the mouths of the members of the favoured communities to cry against a small concession granted with a view to remove the evils that were mainly the result of a narrow policy followed by former Governments. It is neither a question of caste nor religion nor is it a favour granted to the community. These communities do not ask for favours. They are entitled to be compensated and indemnified for the ill-treatment, for the loss in all directions they had incurred for generations together. I am sure Government deserve congratulations rather than condemnation for this small and belated act of justice and fair play.

Another point I would place before this House is the question of our contribution to the Cochin Harbour Scheme. As has been already observed by several previous speakers, this House has been left in the dark as to the extent or nature of our commitments in that scheme or the advantages that we are likely to derive therefrom. We have this year contributed Rs. 3 lakhs as our share of the expenses. It is necessary here to give a note of warning. The

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Travancore Government have invariably burnt their fingers when they had to enter into an agreement with the British Government or with the South Indian Railway company or the Kannan Devan Planters' Company or even the agreement with the much talked-of company for the manufacture of matches. I doubt very much whether, at any time in modern history, Travancore has come out well in any of the agreements they entered into with parties outside the State. It is a most unfortunate circumstance and I wish that this Government would not add its own share to this calamity. Government will do well therefore to be extremely careful in their participation in the Cochin Harbour Scheme.

While on this subject, I would draw the attention of Government to an answer given yesterday to an interpellation in this House. The answer relates to the deflection of export trade from Cochin to Alleppey Port. In this year, it has amounted to a large figure. Now Government have not ascertained why this deflection has taken place. I am in a position to inform Government that it was due to the increase in the Port dues at Cochin which have been recently raised considerably. At Alleppey, in spite of the many inconveniences to shippers the low rates in Port dues have induced the chief exporting firms in Cochin to open branches at Alleppey and ship their cargoes from there. I am given to understand that the authorities of the Cochin Harbour intend approaching our Government, if they have not already approached, with a request to raise the Alleppey Port dues to the level at Cochin. If Government agree to do so, that would be the admission of the thin end of the wedge and would prove a death-blow to the Alleppey Port. That is a calamity which the people of this State cannot view with equanimity.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad* cum *Paru*): Sir, in accordance with the usual practice generally obtaining in all democratic legislatures, we have also been allowed to make a general survey of the administration on occasions when budget estimates are presented to this House. Unfortunately, many of us have not been able to fully avail ourselves of the opportunity because the copies of the *Preliminary Budget* were not received by many of us except on the day previous to the one on which it was presented or even on that day itself. I request that at least, on future occasions, the Government will see that copies of it are sent to us a week before it is presented to the House so that we may study them properly and make whatever references that are necessary in passing our criticisms on the budget before this House.

A good deal of criticism passed on the Financial Secretary would certainly not have been made had it not been for the literary flourishes with which he thought fit to embellish his financial statement. Those flourishes contain words and phrases provocative in their nature and hence the Financial Secretary has to thank only himself for a good portion of the hostile criticism he has drawn upon himself from all quarters of this House.

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[Mr. A. Govinda Menon.]

Critically viewed, the budget before us shows no improvements on its predecessor. It does not indicate any definite financial policy on the part of its framers. The statement of the Financial Secretary which should have furnished us with information on this is wisely silent on the point. I say wisely, for it is patent to those who are used to handling budgets that the one before us cannot by any possibility have been based on a well-thought-out financial policy on the part of Government. I am however, loath to cast any serious blame on the present head of our administration or his financial adviser, for this state of things. They have but followed in the wake of their predecessors and their difficulties are to an appreciable extent due to commitments made by previous administrators. If they deserve any blame it is only for not improving the state of things in which they found the finances of this State. It is clear even to the layman that the policy of drift in finance has run its natural course and that, unless we adopt without delay a well-defined and sound financial policy, the administration will soon find itself landed in difficulties, from which it would not be easy for any one to rescue it.

The growing demands of a progressive administration require a constantly increasing share of our revenues for the needs of the educational and development branches of our administration and it is therefore the plain duty of our Government to seek out and utilise every untapped source of income of the State. My friends Messrs. Madhava Variar and Dominic Tomman have clearly indicated what the chief of those sources are and I may assure you that every one of us in this House would stand unwaveringly by Government in overcoming any obstacles that may stand in their way in carrying out the proposals of my friends.

An increase in our resources would not, however, better our present conditions to any appreciable extent, unless there is some one who is specially deputed to keep strict watch over the administration of our finances. To this end, I would again urge the absolute necessity of having a Financial Secretary who has no concern with the Audit and Accounts Department. The Dewan with his multifarious duties as the Head of the Administration can never be expected to bestow sufficient attention on our finances. In fact, it is not advisable in the present state of affairs to combine the functions of the Account Officer and that of the Financial Secretary in one and the same person. To secure an efficient administration of our finances, it is necessary that the heads of the administration who are appointed only for short and limited periods should receive effective advice and check at the hands of those presiding over the departments of finance and audit. If such advice and check really existed, the spectacle of occasionally creating appointments for persons and of projecting ill-advised schemes involving either any large capital outlay or an increased recurring expenditure would have been a rare phenomenon in our administration. A well-constituted but small

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Finance Committee, presided over by the Dewan and appointed for a term of at least three years, and composed of an equal number of officials and of non-officials elected by the Council and possessing power to examine all financial questions and to pass the annual budget estimates before they are presented to this House, is also a *desideratum* for the efficient administration of our finances. Unless these suggestions are carried out, 'the policy of drift' is not likely to disappear from the sphere of our finances and to give place to a steady, sound, financial policy which would be able to provide for the growing needs of a progressive country like ours. I hope and trust this matter will, therefore, meet with careful and favourable consideration at the hands of this House.

Among the various proposals that have been brought forward by my friends in the House to make the administration of the finances more efficient there are very many which require careful consideration at the hands of this House as also the Government. But I do not wish to touch upon all of them except one which I think is rather curious. My friend Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar said that the Secretaries in the Secretariat who ought to keep watch over the several departments should be specialists. I think that this is the first time in the history of any democratic legislature that such a suggestion has been made. In fact, no legislature allows, if possible, any specialist in any department to have its ultimate control in the Government. I think it is within the recent memory of almost all of us that there was a tussle between the Commander-in-Chief Lord Kitchener and the Viceroy Lord Curzon. Of course the former being stronger, the office of the Military Supply Member was abolished and Lord Curzon had to resign and go away. There is another objection to the suggestion. Take the case of the Medical Department. Suppose there is a Deputy Surgeon or Assistant Surgeon in the Secretariat in charge of the Medical department. Ordinarily, these people will not dare to pass any remark against the Darbar Physician if they want to get promotions in the department. The idea involves a kind of—if it is not unparliamentary to use the word—absurdity. It is not possible to have specialists trained in every branch and to put them in to look after the administration of that branch. I do not want to say anything further about the proposal, but only referred to it because this is the first time I have heard such a proposal emanating from a democratic legislature.

MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Tovala*): Sir, இந்த வருஷத்திலுள்ள வரவுசெலவு கணக்கையும், அடுத்த வருஷத்து வரவு செலவு கணக்கையும் பரிசோதித்துப் பார்த்ததில், இந்த வருஷத்து வரவுசெலவு கணக்கை அதிக தர்க்கத்திற்கு இடமில்லாமல் Financial Committee கூடியிருந்து ஆராய்ந்துபார்த்துச் செய்திருக்கிறதாக Financial Secretary அபிப்பிராயப்படுகிறது மிகவும் சம்மதிக்கத்தக்கதே. ஆனால் அடுத்த வருஷத்தில் கூடுதல் முதல் வரவுக்கு இடமிருக்கிறதாகவும், அது குடிகளின் மேல் கூடுதல் வரியைச் சுமத்தாமல் வருகிறது என்றும் அபிப்பிராயப்படுகிறார். பிரிடிஷில் உப்பு நிருதியைக் கூட்டினபிறகு இவ்விடத்திலும் கூட்டினதினால் உப்பு நிருதியில் ரூ. $4\frac{3}{4}$ லக்ஷம் வருமானம் வருகிறதென்றும் சொல்லுகிறார்.

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[Mr. T. M. Chidambaratanu Pillai.]

அந்தக் கூடுதலையும் இந்தக் குடிகள் தாம் கொடுக்கவேண்டியதாயிருக்கிறது. இவர்கள் மேல்தான் கூடுதல்வரி ஏற்பட்டும் இருக்கிறது.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): The speech is not sufficiently audible.

PRESIDENT: What is the matter, Mr. Narayana Pillai?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: I cannot hear what he reads.

PRESIDENT ஊக்க வாசிக்கவேண்டும்.

MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Tovala*): தவிரவும் இந்த நிகுதி எப்போது பரிடிஷில் நிறுத்தப்படுகிறதோ அப்போதே இவ்விடத்திலும் நிறுத்தப்படும். எல்லா ராஜ்யங்களிலும் வரவுக்கு மிஞ்சி செலவு சொல்லப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. நம்முடைய ராஜ்யத்தில் அது இல்லாமலிருக்கிறது நிரம்பவும் சிலாகிக்கப்படவேண்டியதுதான். இந்தக் கூடுதல் வரவு கிடைக்கிறது இந்த ஜனங்களிடத்திலிருந்தல்லாமல் வேறில்லை. இந்த முதல்கொண்டு அவர்களுக்கு விசேஷமாக ஒரு நன்மையும் கிடைத்ததாகத் தெரியவில்லை. ஜனங்களுக்குக் கூடுதல் நன்மையைச் செய்யவேண்டுமானால், கல்வி விஷயமாகவும், ஔஷத ஸ்தாபனங்கள் விஷயமாகவும், மராமத்து விஷயமாகவும் தான் கிடைக்கவேண்டும். கல்வி விஷயத்தைப் பார்த்தால், தாழ்ந்த ஜாதியார் என்றும், கல்வியில் பின்னடைந்தவர் என்றும், இரண்டு வகுப்பாய் எடுத்து, அவைகளில் சில ஸமுதாயத்தாரை மட்டும் குறிப்பிட்டு, அவர்களுக்கு முழுப் பீஸும், பாதிப் பீஸும், குறைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன. இதனாலேயே கல்வி விஷயத்தில் வரவு குறையக் கூடும். இந்த வகுப்பாருக்குப் பீஸ் குறைத்துக் கொடுத்ததைப்பற்றி நான் பொறுமை கொள்ளவில்லை. எந்தச் சமுதாயத்தாரிலும் படிக்கிறதற்குத் தகுதியில்லாத ஆட்களுக்காக பீஸ் குறைத்துக் கொடுக்கப்படவேண்டியது. ஒரு தாழ்ந்த வகுப்பினன் தன் குழந்தைகளையும் தவிர வேறு குழந்தைகளையும் படிப்பிக்கிறதற்குத் தகுதியுள்ளவனாயிருந்தாலும், அவன் தாழ்ந்த வகுப்பினன் ஆனதினால் அவனுக்குப் பீஸ் குறைத்துக் கொடுக்கிறது நியாயமில்லையே. அதைப்போலவே நிலத்தைப் பதித்துக் கொடுப்பதிலும் ஜாதிவித்தியாஸம் பாராட்டலாகாது. எந்தச் சமுதாயத்திலும் குடியிருக்கிறதற்கும், கிருஷி செய்கிறதற்கும் நிலம் வாங்கச் சக்தியில்லாதவர்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு நிலத்தைப் பதித்துக் கொடுக்கவும், பிறகு அவர்களுக்குச் சக்தியுண்டாகும் காலத்தில் அதற்குள்ள விலையை வாங்கவும் ஏற்பாடு செய்தால் கவெர்ண்மென்டுக்கு லாண்ட் ரெவினியூவில் முதல் கூடிவரும். ஒருவருடைய தகுதியைப் பாராமல் சமுதாயத்தை மாத்திரம் பார்த்து நிலத்தைப் பதித்துக் கொடுக்கிறதாயிருந்தால், கவெர்ண்மென்டுக்கு நாளுக்கு நாள் நஷ்டமே ஏற்படும்.

அடுத்த வருஷத்தில் வரவு கூடுதலாக வருகிறதினால் செலவையும் அதிகமாக்கினால் நல்லது என்று நினைத்துக் கூடுதல் செலவு ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. புதியவைகளாகச் சில உத்தியோகங்கள் ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன, அவைகளாவன:— Temporary officers; Supernu-

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merary hands, Assistant Translator—ആകിയവയേ, Leave allowances എന്നു ചില ചെലവുകളും കാണപ്പടുകിന്നു. തമിഴ്മൊഴി പെയർപ്പുക്കു ഒരു സ്ഥിര ഉത്തിയോകസ്തരെ നിയമിക്കവേണ്ടുമെന്നു പലമുറൈ മുറൈപിട്ടും, അവരെ നിയമിത്തതാകക് കാണ്വില്ലൈ. അതറ്കു Piece work എന്നു ഒരു Item വൈത്തു Rs. 3,100 അനുവതിക്കപ്പട്ടിരുക്കിറതു. ഒരു സ്ഥിര ഉത്യോകസ്തരെ നിയമിന്താൽ ഇവ്വളവു ചെലവു ചെയ്യവേണ്ടാം. അതനാൽ, Tamil Translator വേലൈക്കു ഒരു പിരത്തിയേക ഉത്തിയോകസ്തരെ നിയമിക്കവേണ്ടുമ്. കുറൈന്ത ചമ്പളത്തിൽ എത്തനൈപോ പൂട്കൾ തമിഴിൽ പാണ്ടിത്തിയമുൾളവർകൾ കിടൈപ്പാർകൾ. കവെർണ്മെൻറ്കുച് ചെലവും കുറൈയും.

എഞ്ചിനീർ വകുപ്പിലുൾ വേലൈകൾ ചെയ്കിറതിൽ കിരുഷ്ടിക്കാരുക്കു ആവചിയമുൾള വേലൈകളൈ അവർകളുക്കേ കാണ്ട്രാക്ട് കൊടുക്കിറതായിരുന്താൽ അതികച് ചെലവു ഏറ്പടാമലുമ്, വേലൈ ഉറുതിയാകവുമ് ഇരുക്കക്കൂടുമ്. അടിക്കടി മാറ്റിച് ചെയ്യവേണ്ടിയിരാതു.

ചില സ്തലങ്കളിൽ ആചുപത്തിരികൾ വാടകൈക് കട്ടിടങ്കളിൽ പോടപ്പട്ടിരുക്കിറതാകവുമ്, കൂടുതൽ വാടകൈ കൊടുക്കപ്പട്ടു വരുകിറതാകവുമ് വിളങ്കുകിറതു. ഇപ്പടി വാടകൈ കൊടുക്കിറതൈപ്പാർക്കിലുമ്, കവെർണ്മെൻറിലിരുന്തു കട്ടിടമ് കട്ടിക്കൊടുത്താൽ വരുഷത്തോറുമ് ഇന്ത മാതിരി ചെലവുക്കിടമില്ലൈ.

MR. P. PARAMESVARAN (*Nominated*): അടുത്ത ആണ്ടത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ് കഴിഞ്ഞ തിങ്കളാഴ്ച സമർപ്പിച്ച സമയം ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറി പറഞ്ഞ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ ഫാമിൻവ്യാമാണ്ടു ചിലവുകഴിച്ചു മുക്കാൽ ലക്ഷം രൂപാമാത്രമെ മിച്ചം വരികയുള്ളൂ എന്ന് ബഡ്ജറിൽ നിണ്ണയിച്ചിരിക്കേ, ചിലവു കുറിവുള്ളെടത്തോളം കുറയ്ക്കുകയും വരവിനങ്ങളെ ശരിയായി ആരാഞ്ഞറിഞ്ഞു പിരിവുവരുത്തുകയും ചെയ്തതിന്റെ ഫലമായി ചിലവു മിച്ചം കൂടുതലായിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നു പ്രസ്താവിച്ചു. ട്രുനികുതി എന്ന ഇനത്തിൽ പിരിവു, ബഡ്ജറിൽനിന്നും രണ്ടുലക്ഷം രൂപാ കുറവാണെന്നു വരികിലും അടുത്ത ആണ്ടിൽ ഇതിലും അധികം വരവുണ്ടാകാനുള്ള മാർഗ്ഗം നിർദ്ദേശിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതും സന്തോഷാവഹംതന്നെ. പുതുവൽപതിവു ഇനത്തിൽ ഉള്ള വരവ് ഈ ആണ്ടിൽ വളരെ കുറഞ്ഞു കാണുന്നു. ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറി പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്ന സമാധാനത്തിൽനിന്നു ഒരു സംശതി വെളിവാകുന്നുണ്ട്. വളരെ വിസ്താരമായ പുതുവൽ തറകളെ ചുരുക്കം ഏതാനും ആളുകളുടെ മാത്രം പേരിൽ പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്ന നയത്തെ ഭേദപ്പെടുത്തി ചെറിയ ബ്ലാക്കുകളായി തിരിച്ചു, അനേകം ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കൊടുക്കാൻ ഇടയാക്കുന്നതു് ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഗുണാവഹമാകുന്നു. ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ഒരു സംശതികൂടി എനിക്കു പറവാനുണ്ടു്. പുതുതായി ഏതാനും വ്യവസായങ്ങൾ

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[Mr. P. Parameswaran.]

ആരംഭിക്കുവാൻ പരിശ്രമിക്കുന്നവരെ പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതു ഗവർൺമെൻറിന്റെ കടമയാണല്ലൊ. ഈ കടമയെ നിർവ്വഹിക്കുന്നതിൽ വ്യവസായ പ്രവർത്തകന്മാരുടെ യോഗ്യതകളെ തീരെ ആലോചിക്കാതെ വ്യവസായ പ്രോത്സാഹനം എന്ന പേരുംപറഞ്ഞു അനവധി ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ ചിലരുടെ പേരിൽ ഓരോ കാലത്തു് പതിച്ചുകൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടു. ആ വ്യവസ്ഥയെ അവർ അവഗണിച്ചു പുതുവൽ കരസ്ഥമാക്കണമെന്നുള്ള ഉദ്ദേശത്തെമാത്രം മുൻനിറുത്തി പ്രവർത്തിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി ചില ദൃഷ്ടാന്തങ്ങൾ എടുത്തു കാണിക്കുവാൻ കഴിയും. ഒരു വ്യവസായത്തെ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചു ഈവിധം സഹായം ചെയ്തിരുന്നാൽ ആ വ്യവസായം നിന്നുപോകുന്ന കാലത്തിൽ ഈ ഭൂമികാം വീണ്ടും സർക്കാർലേക്കു് ചേരേണ്ടതാണെന്നുള്ള നിബന്ധന മേലാൽ എങ്കിലും നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുന്നതു നന്നായിരിക്കും.

മുതലെടുപ്പിനങ്ങളിൽ ആകട്ടെ അനേകം പ്രധാന ഇനങ്ങളിലും ഈ ആണ്ടത്തെ പിരിവു ബഡ്ജറ്റുതുകയിൽനിന്നു കൂടുതൽ ആയിരിക്കുമെന്നു കാണുന്നുണ്ടു. റെയിൽവെ എന്ന ഇനത്തിൽ മാത്രം രണ്ടുലക്ഷം രൂപാ പിരിവു കുറവുകാണുമെന്നും അടുത്ത ആണ്ടത്തേയ്ക്കു ഒരു ലക്ഷം രൂപാ നഷ്ടം വരുമെന്നും പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കയും ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നതിനെ വിചാരിക്കുമ്പോൾ ഈ സംസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ റെയിൽവെ നടപ്പാക്കുന്നതു ദുഷ്കരമായി തീരുമെന്നുള്ള ഭയം ജനിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. കന്യാകുമാരി മുതൽ ആലുവാ വരെ റെയിൽവെ നടപ്പാക്കണമെന്നു ഞങ്ങൾ മുറവിളികൂട്ടി തുടങ്ങീട്ടു കാലം വളരെ ആയിരിക്കുന്നു. റെയിൽകൂലി രണ്ടു കൊല്ലത്തിനുമുമ്പിൽ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നതിൽനിന്നു ഇരട്ടി ആക്കീട്ടും ചെങ്കോട്ടമുതൽ തിരുവനന്തപുരം വരെയുള്ള പാതയിൽനിന്നു കിട്ടിവരുന്ന ആദായം ഈ സംസ്ഥാനത്തിലേയ്ക്കു നഷ്ടമായി പരിണമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ൻവ-ലും ൻൻ-ലും റെയിൽവേയിൽനിന്നു നഷ്ടമേ വരികയുള്ളൂ എന്നു വരികിലും വരുംകാലങ്ങളിൽ റെയിൽവെ-നിമിത്തമുള്ള ചിലവു കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിനു ഇടയുണ്ടെന്നു ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറി പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നതു ആശ്വാസജനകംതന്നെ. റെയിൽവെയിലെ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ നടത്തിപ്പു ആശാജനകം അല്ലെങ്കിലും ആലുവാമുതൽ നാഗർകോവിൽവരെ എത്രയും വേഗത്തിൽ റെയിൽവെ നടപ്പാക്കണ്ടതു അത്യാവശ്യമാകയാൽ അതു സാധിപ്പിക്കാൻ വേണ്ട പ്രവൃത്തി ഗവർൺമെണ്ടു ചെയ്യുമെന്നു ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു.

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പ്രധാന ചിലവു ഇനങ്ങളായ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം, പൊതുമരാമത്തു ഈ വകകൾക്കു ഈ ആണ്ടത്തേക്കാം രണ്ടുലക്ഷവും ഒരു ലക്ഷവും രൂപാ വീതവും കൂടുതൽ അടുത്താണ്ടു ചിലവാക്കുവാൻ വ്യവസ്ഥചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നതു സന്തോഷാവഹം തന്നെ. എന്നാൽ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസചിലവിനെപറ്റി ഒരു പ്രത്യേകസംഗതി എന്റെ സമുദായത്തിലേയ്ക്കു വേണ്ടി എനിക്കു അറിയിക്കുവാനുണ്ടു.

വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൽ പിന്നോക്കം നിൽക്കുന്ന സമുദായങ്ങൾ പലതുണ്ടെങ്കിലും എന്റെ സമുദായത്തിന്റെ നില പ്രത്യേകസ്ഥിതിയിലുള്ളതാണ്. പതിനഞ്ചുകൊല്ലങ്ങൾക്കു മുമ്പു വരെ തിരുവിതാംകൂർ സംസ്ഥാനത്തിലുള്ള യാതൊരു ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് പള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങളിലും മലയാംപള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങളിലും ആയുർവേദകാളേജ്, സംസ്കൃതകാളേജ് ഇവ ഒന്നിലും ഈഴവവിദ്യാർത്ഥികളെ ചേർത്തിരുന്നില്ല. വിശാലഹൃദയന്മാരായ ദിവാൻജിമാർ ഞങ്ങളുടെ ഈ ദയനീയാവസ്ഥയിൽ കൃപ തോന്നി മനുഷ്യജാതിക്കു അവകാശമുള്ള സകലവിധ അവകാശങ്ങൾക്കും അധികാരങ്ങൾക്കും ഈഴവർ സ്വാഭാവികമായി അർഹന്മാരാണെന്നു സമ്മതിച്ചു. ഇവിടെ ഇടംപ്രഥമമായി ഇംഗ്ലീഷ്വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം ആരംഭിച്ച കാലത്തു മറ്റനേകം വർഗ്ഗക്കാർക്കു സ്കോളർഷിപ്പു കൊടുത്തു പഠിപ്പിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരുന്നു. അതിപ്പിന്നെ വളരെകാലം യാതൊരു ഫീസും ഇല്ലാതേയും പിന്നീടു എത്രയൊ ലഘുവായ ഫീസു പിരിച്ചും അവർക്കു വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം നൽകിവന്നിരുന്നു. ഇങ്ങിനെ അനേകം സംവത്സരകാലം ഗവർൺമെന്റു വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിലേയ്ക്കു കൊടുത്തുവന്നിരുന്ന ആനുകൂല്യങ്ങളേയും സഹായങ്ങളേയും അനുഭവിച്ചു മറ്റനേകം സമുദായക്കാർ ഉന്നതിയെ പ്രാപിച്ചതിൽപിന്നെ മാത്രം ആകുന്നു എന്റെ സമുദായത്തിലുള്ളവർക്കു പള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങളുടെ വാതിലുകൾ തുറന്നു കൊടുത്തതു. അതുകൊണ്ടു എന്റെ സമുദായം മേല്പറഞ്ഞ വർഗ്ഗക്കാരോടൊപ്പം വിദ്യാഭ്യാസാഭിവൃദ്ധിയെ പ്രാപിക്കുന്നതുവരെ ഗവർൺമെന്റിൽ നിന്നു ഉദാരസഹായങ്ങളും ഞങ്ങൾക്കു ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണെന്നുള്ള വാസ്തവസ്ഥിതിയെ കഴിഞ്ഞ രണ്ടുകൊല്ലങ്ങളായി ക്രമക്രമേണ അനേകം അവസരങ്ങളിൽ ഞാൻ അറിയിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നു. മഹാമനസ്കരായ സ്വാമി അവർകൾ ആകട്ടെ എന്റെ നിവേദനത്തിലെ ന്യായാന്യായങ്ങളെ ആരാഞ്ഞറിഞ്ഞതിനുശേഷം ഇംഗ്ലീഷ്സ്കൂളുകളിൽ ഈഴവവിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കു പകുതിഫീസു മതി എന്നുള്ള ആനുകൂല്യം നൽകിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ ആനുകൂല്യം വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൽ പിന്നോക്കം നിൽക്കുന്ന മറ്റെല്ലാ വർഗ്ഗക്കാരിലും പ്രചരിപ്പിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ദിവാൻജി സ്വാമി അവർകളുടെ ഈ

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[Mr. P. Parameswaran.]

വിശാലഹൃദയത്തിലേക്കായി എന്റെ സമുദായത്തിന്റെ കൃതജ്ഞതയെ ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ഞാൻ അറിയിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ഗ്രാന്റു വാങ്ങുന്ന പള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങളിൽ പഠിക്കുന്ന ഇത്തരം വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കും ഈ ആനുകൂല്യം ലഭിച്ചതുനിമിത്തം ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു അനേക ലക്ഷം രൂപാ കൂടുതൽ ചിലവുള്ളതായി ബഡ്ജറിൽ കാണിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ ഇനത്തിലെ ചിലവു എത്രതന്നെ കൂടുതലാകുന്നതായാലും തിരുമനസ്സിലെ ഗവർൺമെൻറു സന്തോഷപൂർവ്വം വഹിക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതിലേക്കു ഞങ്ങൾക്കു യാതൊരു സംശയവും ഇല്ല.

ഫീസു കുറച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന വിഷയത്തിൽ ഗവർൺമെൻറു കാണിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന നയത്തിൽ മതഭേദത്തെയൊ ജാതിഭേദത്തെയൊ ഗണിക്കാതെ "വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൽ പിന്നോക്കം നില്ക്കുന്ന സമുദായം" എന്നുള്ള ഏകതത്വത്തെ മാത്രമാകുന്നു സ്വീകരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു. ഈ തത്വത്തെ നല്ലപോലെ ഗ്രഹിക്കാത്ത ചിലർ, അനേകകൊല്ലങ്ങളായി അധഃക്കരിക്കപ്പെട്ടു കിടന്നിരുന്ന സമുദായത്തിന്റെ നിലയെ അവഗണിച്ചും ഗവർൺമെൻറിന്റെ ഉദാര നയത്തെ അന്യഥാ ശങ്കിച്ചും, ചില പ്രഖ്യാപനങ്ങൾ ചെയ്തുവരുന്നു. ഇവയെ അശേഷം ഗണിക്കരുതെന്നും ഇപ്പോൾ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള ആനുകൂല്യത്തെ മേലും അനേകകൊല്ലത്തേക്കു സ്ഥിരമാക്കിത്തരണമെന്നും വിശിഷ്യ കാളേജ് വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിലും ഈ ആനുകൂല്യം നൽകണമെന്നും അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്താൽ മാത്രമെ ഈഴവ സമുദായത്തിൽ ഉൽകൃഷ്ടവിദ്യാഭ്യാസം പ്രചരിക്കാൻ ഇടയാകയുള്ളു. കഴിഞ്ഞ സെൻസസ്സിൻപ്രകാരം ഈ സംസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ ഏഴു ലക്ഷത്തോളം ഈഴവർ ഉണ്ടു. ഇതിൽ പാഠശാലകളിൽ പഠിക്കുന്നവരുടെ എണ്ണം നൂറിനു പതിനഞ്ചു എന്നുള്ള സർക്കാർ തോതിൻപ്രകാരം ലക്ഷത്തിഅയ്യായിരം പേരാകുന്നു. ഈ ലക്ഷത്തിഅയ്യായിരം പേരിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ കാളേജിൽ പഠിക്കുന്നവരുടെ എണ്ണം ൫൦൦ മാത്രമാണ്. അതായതു രണ്ടായിരം ഈഴവയുവാക്കന്മാരിൽ ഒരാൾ വീതം അല്ലെങ്കിൽ പതിനയ്യായിരം ഈഴവരിൽ ഒരാൾക്കു മാത്രമെ കാളേജിൽ പഠിക്കത്തക്ക യോഗ്യത സിദ്ധിച്ചവരുള്ളു എന്നാകുന്നു. പതിനയ്യായിരം ജനങ്ങളിൽ ഒരാൾക്കു മാത്രമെ കാളേജിൽ പഠിക്കാൻ യോഗ്യത സിദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളു എന്നുള്ള ഏക സംഗതിതന്നെ ഈ സമുദായം ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവിഷയത്തിൽ എത്രവളരെ പിന്നോക്കം നില്ക്കുന്നു എന്ന യഥാ

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ത്തെ വളരെ വ്യക്തമായി വിശദമാക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ഏഴു ലക്ഷം ജനങ്ങൾ അടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ സമുദായത്തിൽ ഇംഗ്ലീഷിൽ ഉൽകൃഷ്ടവിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തെ പ്രേരിപ്പിക്കേണ്ട കടമ ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു ഉണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതു് നിർവ്വിവാദമാണല്ലോ.

എൻെറ സമുദായത്തിലെ വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കു സർക്കാർ ഹോസ്റ്റലിൽ പ്രവേശം കിട്ടേണ്ടതിനെ പറ്റി കഴിഞ്ഞ ആണ്ടു് ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ഈ സഭയിൽ വാദപ്രതിവാദം നടന്നപ്പോൾ പുതിയ ഹോസ്റ്റൽ കെട്ടി തീരുന്നതുവരെ ഈഴവവിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കും മറ്റു വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കുമായി പ്രത്യേകം ഹോസ്റ്റൽ സ്ഥാപിച്ചു തരാമെന്നു് ഡയറക്ടർ മിസ്റ്റർ ഹാഡ്ജ് സൻ വാഗ്ദത്തം ചെയ്തിരുന്നു. അതിനനുസരണമായി യാതൊരു മേൽ നടപ്പും അദ്ദേഹം ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ലെന്നു കണ്ടു ഞാൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു എഴുതി അയച്ചു ആ കാര്യം ഓർമ്മപ്പെടുത്തി. ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ തനിക്കു യാതൊരു ചുമതലയും ഇല്ലാത്ത വിധത്തിലാണു് ഒരു മറുവടി അദ്ദേഹം എഴുതി അയച്ചതു്. എന്നുവരികിലും ഈവിധം തല്ക്കാലമായി ഹോസ്റ്റൽ ഉണ്ടാക്കേണ്ടതിലേക്കു വേണ്ട ചിലവു അടുത്ത ആണ്ടത്തെ ബഡ്ജറിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നതായി കാണുന്നതിൽ സന്തോഷിക്കുന്നു.

ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ഒരു സംഗതികൂടി എനിക്കു ഓർമ്മപ്പെടുത്തുവാനുണ്ടു്. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലുള്ള വിദ്യാലയങ്ങളിൽ നൽകി വരുന്ന പഠിത്തം ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഇൻഡ്യാഗവർൺമെൻറിൻെറ നയത്തെ മാത്രം അനുകരിച്ചുള്ളതാകയാൽ മതസംബന്ധമായൊ മതാചാരസംബന്ധമായൊ ഉള്ള യാതൊരു പാഠവും ഈവിദ്യാലയങ്ങളെ തീണ്ടാൻ ഇടവരുത്തരുതെന്നു ശഠിക്കുന്നപോലെ തോന്നുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഒരു കാലത്തു് അതായതു നൂറുകൊല്ലങ്ങൾക്കു മുമ്പു മുതൽ, തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഗവർൺമെൻറു തന്നെയും ക്രിസ്തുമതപ്രചാരത്തിനായി അനേകം നിലം പുരയിടങ്ങൾ മിഷ്യനറിമാർക്കു കരം ഒഴിവായി പതിച്ചു കൊടുത്തു കൊണ്ടിരുന്നു. പുലയർ മുതലായ താണ ജാതിക്കാരെ ആയിരക്കണക്കായി ക്രിസ്തു മതത്തിൽ ചേർത്തപ്പോൾ അവരുടെ രക്ഷക്കെന്നു പേരും പറഞ്ഞു അടുത്തകാലത്തു തന്നെയും അനേകം ഏക്കർ പുതുവൽ സ്ഥലം മിഷ്യനറിമാർക്കു പതിച്ചു കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അന്യമതസ്ഥന്മാരായിരുന്നാലും അവരും സ്വപ്രജകളാകയാൽ അവരുടെ ഇഷ്ടാനുസരണം ഈശ്വരവിശ്വാസം അവരിൽ അങ്കുരിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതു തൻെറ കടമയാകുന്നു എന്നുള്ള സ്വധർമ്മബോധമത്രെ ഇങ്ങിനെ വസ്തുക്കൾ പതിച്ചു കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു ഞങ്ങളുടെ പൊന്നുതമ്പുരാനെ പ്രേരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. എന്നാൽ മതം മാറാതെയും ഹിന്ദുമതസംബന്ധമായ

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[Mr. P. Parameswaran.]

പാഠങ്ങൾ ഗ്രഹിക്കാൻ ന്യായമായ മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ ഇല്ലാതെയും പരിതപിച്ചു വരുന്ന എന്റെ സമുദായത്തിന്റേയും മറ്റു സമുദായങ്ങളുടേയും രക്ഷക്കായി; പ്രജാവാത്സല്യനിധിയായ പൊന്നുതമ്പുരാൻ തിരുമനസ്സിലേയ്ക്കും അവിടത്തെ വിശ്വസ്തമന്ത്രിയായ സ്വാമി അവർകൾക്കും ഈ ധർമ്മബോധം വിശാലമായി ഉജ്ജീവിക്കയും ഞങ്ങളെ ഹിന്ദുമതത്തിൽ പൂർണ്ണവിശ്വാസമുള്ളവരാക്കിരക്ഷിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ ഗവർമ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നു ചെയ്തുതരുവാൻ അംഗീകരിക്കേണ്ടകാലം അതിക്രമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ പരമോദ്ദേശസിദ്ധിക്കായി ഞങ്ങളുടെ ഗുരുസ്വാമികൾ സർവ്വാത്മനാ പ്രയത്നിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരുന്നിട്ടും ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ ഗവർമ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നും ലഭിക്കേണ്ടതായ ന്യായമായ സഹായങ്ങൾ ലഭിക്കായ്കനിമിത്തം അവർ പൂർണ്ണഫലപ്രദങ്ങളായി തീർന്നിട്ടില്ല. ഞങ്ങളുടെ സമുദായത്തിലേക്കും ഞങ്ങളുടെ മതാചാര്യന്മാർ മിഷ്യനറിമാർക്കു കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതുപോലെയുള്ള സഹായങ്ങളിൽ ഒരംശം എങ്കിലും ലഭിക്കുന്നതായാൽ മാത്രമേ സർക്കാർസ്കൂളുകളിൽ ചേർന്നു ഈശ്വരവിശ്വാസവിഹീനന്മാരായി തീർന്നുവരുന്ന ഞങ്ങളുടെ യുവാക്കന്മാർക്കു മതബോധകങ്ങളായ പാഠങ്ങൾ പഠിക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കയുള്ളൂ.

ആയുർവേദചികിത്സാ ഈഴവരുടെ വൃത്തികളിൽ പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ടതായി ഗണിക്കപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. പൂർവകാലം മുതൽക്കേ കീർത്തിപ്പെട്ട അനേകം വൈദ്യന്മാർ ഞങ്ങളുടെ സമുദായത്തിലുണ്ടു. പണ്ടുപണ്ടേതന്നെ കൊട്ടാരം വൈദ്യൻ എന്ന സ്ഥാനപ്പേരുകൾ ഞങ്ങളിൽ ഏതാനും കുടുംബക്കാർക്കു ലഭിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ആയുർവേദപാഠശാല നാല്പതുകൊല്ലത്തിനു മുമ്പെ സ്ഥാപിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. ആദ്യത്തെ ഇരുപത്തഞ്ചിലധികം കൊല്ലത്തോളം ഈഴവവിദ്യാർത്ഥികളെ അതിൽ ചേർത്തിരുന്നില്ല. അതിൽ പഠിച്ചു വന്നിരുന്ന വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളെക്കാൾ കൂടുതലായി വൈദ്യശാസ്ത്രപരിജ്ഞാനം ലഭിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഈഴവയുവാക്കളെ പ്രൈവറ്റു സ്റ്റുഡൻറു എന്ന നിലയിൽ ആ പാഠശാലയിലെ പ്രധാനപരീക്ഷകളിൽ ചേരുന്നതിനു കൂടിയും അനുവദിച്ചിരുന്നില്ല. ഈ ദുഷ്ടാവസ്ഥ എല്ലാം നീങ്ങിട്ടു പത്തുകൊല്ലമേ ആയിട്ടുള്ളൂ. അതുകൊണ്ടു ആയുർവേദഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ഉള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരേക്കാൾ വൈദ്യവിഷയത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ യോഗ്യതയുള്ളവരും അവരിൽ ഒട്ടും കുറവില്ലാത്തവരും ആയ ഈഴവർ നടത്തിവരുന്ന വൈദ്യശാലകൾക്കും ഗവർ

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ന്മെൻറ് ഗ്രാൻറു കിട്ടാതെയിരിക്കുന്നു. അനേകം നഗരങ്ങളിലുള്ള ജനങ്ങൾക്കു സർക്കാർ വൈദ്യന്മാരേക്കാൾ ഈഴവവൈദ്യന്മാരെയാകുന്നു വിശ്വാസമുള്ളതും. അതു കൊണ്ടു് വൈദ്യശാലകൾക്കു് ഗ്രാൻറു കൊടുക്കുന്ന കാര്യത്തിൽ ഈഴവർക്കു് ന്യായമായ സഹായം ലഭിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം ഗ്രാൻറു വൈദ്യശാലകളുടെ എണ്ണം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതാകുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ അതുകെ എൺപത്തൊന്നു് ഗ്രാൻറു വൈദ്യശാലകളുള്ളതിൽ ഏഴോ എട്ടോ മാത്രമേ ഈഴവവൈദ്യന്മാരുടേതായിട്ടുള്ളൂ.

ഔഷധങ്ങൾ പാകംചെയ്യുന്നതിനു് പ്രത്യേകവാസനയും പരിചയവും സിദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഈഴവവൈദ്യന്മാർ അനേകം പേർ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നിട്ടും സർക്കാർവക ആയുർവ്വേദഫാർമ്മസിയിൽ അങ്ങനെ ഉള്ള ഈഴവരിൽ ഒരാളെപ്പോലും നിയമിച്ചിട്ടില്ലാ. ഈ ഫാർമ്മസിക്കായി ആണ്ടുതോറും രണ്ടായിരത്തിനാന്നൂറു രൂപായിൽ അധികം സിൽബന്ധികളുടെ ശമ്പളമായി ചിലവാക്കുന്നുണ്ടു് ഈ ഫാർമ്മസിയിൽ നിന്നും ആയുർവ്വേദാശുപത്രിയിലേക്കു് ഏഴായിരത്തിഅഞ്ഞൂറുരൂപാ വിലയ്ക്കുള്ള ഔഷധങ്ങൾ വിലയ്ക്കു കൊടുത്തുവരുന്നു. ഈ ഔഷധങ്ങൾ ശാസ്ത്രീയമായവിധത്തിൽ പാകം ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളവ അല്ലഎന്നു് ഒരു അപഖ്യാതി വർത്തമാനപത്രങ്ങളിൽ കൂടെക്കൂടെ കാണുന്നുണ്ടു്. നാട്ടുവൈദ്യത്തിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് പാശ്ചാത്യവൈദ്യത്തേക്കാൾ വളരെ പ്രതിപത്തിയും വിശ്വാസവും ഉള്ളതുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ സ്ഥാപനത്തിന്മേൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള അപഖ്യാതിയെ പരിഹരിക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടതു പ്രവർത്തിച്ചതിനുമേൽ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെക്കാൾ കൂടുതൽധനം ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ ചിലവുചെയ്തു് ജനസാമാന്യത്തിനു് ഉപകാരപ്രദമാക്കിത്തീർക്കണമെന്നു അറിയിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I rise to a point of order. I do not know if it is open to members of this House to make personal appeals to the Dewan when he presides here as President of this Council.

PRESIDENT: I am inclined to say that it is not in order.

MR. P. PARAMESVARAN: പുതുതായി അനേകം ഏർപ്പാടുകൾ നടപ്പാക്കുന്നതിലേക്കു വേണ്ടിയുള്ള പ്രാരംഭപ്രവൃത്തികൾക്കു് രണ്ടുലക്ഷം രൂപാ ബഡ്ജറിൽ കൊള്ളിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു് ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലേക്കു് ശാശ്വതമായ ക്ഷേമം വരുത്തുന്നതിലേക്കുള്ള ദിവാൻജിസ്വാമി അവർകളുടെ ദീർഘാലോചനയെ വിശദീകരിക്കുന്നതാണെല്ലോ.

ഇനി അവസാനമായി ഒരു സംഗതിമാത്രം പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു് എന്റെ പ്രസംഗത്തെ ഞാൻ ഉപസംഹരിക്കാം. ഈ സംസ്ഥാനത്തി

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[Mr. K. V. Natesa Aiyar.]

ന്റെഭരണാധികാരത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് പൂർണ്ണമായ ചുമതലകളും ഭരണങ്ങളുംഇപ്പോൾ വഹിച്ചുവരുന്ന ദിവാൻ ബഹദൂർ റവ. രാഘവയ്യാ അവർകൾക്ക് പ്രതിമാസം ആയിരം ബ്രിട്ടീഷുരൂപാ ശമ്പളം കൂട്ടികൊടുക്കാൻ കല്പിച്ച് അനുവദിച്ചതിൽ മഹാരാജാതിരുമനസ്സിലെ ഉദാരനയത്തെ എത്രതന്നെ ശ്ലാഘിച്ചാലും മതിയാകുന്നതല്ലാ. ഈ സംസ്ഥാനത്തുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ പേര്, സ്റ്റീസ്, ശമ്പളം മുതലായവിവരങ്ങളും ആദ്യമായിഅച്ചടിച്ചു പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തിയതു് ആയിരത്തിനാല്പത്തൊമ്പാണ്ടിൽ ആയിരുന്നു. ആ പുസ്തകം ഞാൻ നോക്കിയതിൽ അന്നത്തെ ദിവാൻജി ആയിരുന്ന സർ. ടി. മാധവരായർ അവർകൾക്ക് രണ്ടായിരം രൂപാ ശമ്പളം ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നതായികാണുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അന്നത്തെ ഹൈക്കോടതി ജഡ്ജിമാർക്കും പേഷ്കാരന്മാർക്കും അഞ്ഞൂറു രൂപാ വീതവും ജില്ലാജഡ്ജിമാർക്ക് ഇരുനൂറുരൂപാവീതവും തഹശീൽദാരന്മാർക്കും മുൻസിഫ്മാർക്കും നൂറുരൂപാവീതവും കവിയാതേയും അന്നത്തെ കാളേജ് പ്രൊഫസറന്മാർക്ക് നൂറുരൂപാവീതവും മാത്രമെ ശമ്പളമുണ്ടായിരുന്നുള്ളൂ. ദിവാൻജിയെ ഒഴിച്ച് മറ്റെല്ലാ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടേയും ശമ്പളം അന്നത്തേതിൽ നിന്നും ഇപ്പോൾ രണ്ടും മൂന്നും നാലും ഇരട്ടിവീതം വർദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. രാജ്യഭരണക്ലേശം അന്നത്തേതിൽനിന്നും പതിന്മടങ്ങ് ദുർഭരമായ് വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. എന്നിട്ടും ദിവാൻജിക്ക്മാത്രം ശമ്പളം, അൻപത്തഞ്ചുകൊല്ലം മുമ്പെയുള്ള തോതിൽ നിന്നിരുന്നതേയുള്ളൂ. അത് അനുചിതമെന്നുകണ്ട് കല്പിച്ച് കാലോചിതമായ് ഭേദപ്പെടുത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നു. രാജ്യക്ഷേമത്തെമാത്രം മുൻനിർത്തിയും അതിനെമാത്രം ലക്ഷ്യമാക്കിയും നിഷ്പക്ഷപാതമായി പ്രവർത്തിച്ചുവരുന്ന ദിവാൻജിസ്വാമി അവർകളെ ഈദൃശമുദ്യോഗത്തിന്റെ പ്രതിനിധിഎന്നനിലയിൽ ഞാൻ അഭിനന്ദിക്കുന്നു.

PRESIDENT: I believe there are no more non-official gentlemen who are going to speak. There is not much time left for the officials. However, I would call upon such of them as wish to speak to come forward. I would request them to be brief in their speeches seeing that the Financial Secretary's reply will necessarily be long.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Sir, the criticisms and suggestions which some of the members have offered on the working of the P. W. D. which is now controlled by me and for which I am thankful, may be summarised under the following heads:—

1. Excessive Establishment,
2. Paper allotments and grants unspent,
3. More allotments for communications,
4. More allotments for Minor Irrigation and
5. Maintenance of Village roads.

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I shall take these one by one and explain as briefly as possible, the actual facts with full confidence that misapprehensions, if any, will be removed.

The department has undergone a very severe retrenchment sanctioned towards the close of 1097 and given effect to early in 1098. The post of the Deputy Chief Engineer which was in existence from 1086 has been abolished. The Chief Engineer used to be assisted by an Executive Engineer of the workshops or the Trivandrum Division even previously *i. e.* from 1073 to 1086. Now there is only an Assistant Engineer to help the Chief Engineer in his office. The number of Executive Engineers for charge of Divisions has been reduced from 9 to 6 and that of P. W. ordinary Divisions excluding the Workshops and Stores Division from 6 to 5. The number of Assistant Engineers for executive work has been reduced from 15 to 10, increasing the number of Sub-Engineers who have a lesser scale of pay, from 3 to 5. The number of Sub-divisions has been reduced from 17 to 14. The number of upper subordinates has been reduced from 62 to 48 and the number of section charges from 58 to 47. The number of lower subordinates for full executive duty has been reduced from 23 to 8. The savings made available by the above retrenchment were mostly utilised to meet the increases due to the raising of the pay necessitated by the after effects of the War, of officers drawing Rs. 100 and less, both executive and ministerial. The increases given cannot be said to be even liberal. Men who were previously drawing Rs. 70 to Rs. 100 have been given a scale of only Rs. 80 to Rs. 120. Those who had a scale of Rs. 60 to Rs. 85 were given a scale of Rs. 75 to Rs. 100. Those who were drawing Rs. 35 and Rs. 45 were given only a scale of Rs. 35 to Rs. 50 and those who were drawing Rs. 60 were given a scale of only Rs. 50 to Rs. 70. The clerks who were drawing Rs. 30 and Rs. 40 were given a scale of Rs. 35 to Rs. 50. The starting scale for clerks was fixed only at Rs. 20 to Rs. 25. This starting pay of Rs. 20 had been sanctioned in 1086.

I would earnestly request the members to note from the above that there has been a very heavy retrenchment effected, which has added heavily to my responsibility in administering the department in the very first year of my charge and that the saving effected has been utilised in giving the much-needed relief to the subordinate staff who were drawing Rs. 100 and less.

PRESIDENT: Please read a little more slowly; the House cannot follow you.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Then I must be given more time.

PRESIDENT: No more than your allotted time.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): There are several misapprehensions to be removed. I cannot finish within the time allotted if I read slowly. (*Laughter.*) The pay of the higher officers was left untouched. The Chief Engineer's pay stands where it was for the past 26 years and more. It is supposed to correspond to the pay of a Superintending Engineer, Madras, whose old scale

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of pay stood at about Rs. 1,200 and whose present scale of pay stands at Rs. 1,750 to Rs. 2,150. The pay of the Executive Engineer stands at Rs. 500 to Rs. 800 as sanctioned in 1086. Even so far back as 1073 it was Rs. 450 to Rs. 800. The Madras Provincial Executive Engineer, with the same qualifications and less work, who had till recently a scale of only Rs. 500 to Rs. 800, is now given a scale rising up to Rs. 1,250 and more. The Assistant Engineers, Sub-Engineers and Supervisors, 1st and 2nd grade, retain the grades severally sanctioned for them in 1086 and previously.

Now considering the percentage of establishment to the total outlay on works, establishment, and tools and plant, the Travancore rate has been keeping up an average of 17 per cent for the years 1086 to 1097 and this is being maintained more or less—varying with the grants made available for works according to the exigencies of other Government commitments and necessities. Government in their G. O. No. P. W. 6,640 A, dated the 20th October 1910, have fixed the ratio at 20 per cent., after a careful consideration of the circumstances prevailing here. This ratio has never been reached except during the years 1091 to 1094 when the grant to the P. W. D. was reduced by about Rs. 10 lakhs owing to the then depressed state of the finances brought about by war conditions. They observe in paragraph 6 thereof as follows:

"His Highness' Government feel that a ratio of 13 to 100 or even 16 to 100, cannot be consistent with good work, and that what is saved in establishment charges is probably being lost (several times over) by bad work, due to the absence of adequate higher supervision. During the last three years, several Executive Engineers' Divisions had to be worked by Assistant Engineers and several Sub-Divisions had to be worked by First and even Second grade Overseers. Work must have suffered on his account. It seems to Government that, taking the whole P. W. D. outlay of a year into consideration, an expenditure of 20 per cent. of that outlay on "Establishment." cannot be excessive if the wastage due to bad work is to be avoided. If the average P. W. outlay is taken to be Rs. 23 lakhs, the establishment charges may well work up to Rs. 4·6 lakhs."

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, I wish to ask Mr. Natesa Aiyar, whether in consideration of the fact that the inspection of boilers and engines is now done by a competent Industrial Engineer, there is any necessity of having an Executive Engineer and an Assistant Engineer in the Workshops Division.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I may very well say at this stage that the Workshops Committee will look into the question.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): It is the Chief Engineer's opinion on that matter that I wish to have.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I may inform him that it is only a very small portion of the work of Mr. Parratt that has been transferred to the new Industrial Engineer.

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I am given only a very small time and I do not wish to be disturbed. (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I may tell Mr. Natesa Aiyar that I am satisfied with his answer. I do not wish to disturb him. (*Laughter.*)

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The Madras ratio is said to be 25 to 30 per cent. and the budget for 1923-1924 shows that it is 26½ per cent. for Buildings and Communications and 28 per cent. for Irrigation, and Navigation, and an average of 27 per cent. for both together. If we compare the outlay on establishment with that on works alone the Travancore percentage stands at about 21, whereas the Madras percentage stands at about 37 per cent.

Comparing the work of the staff, the allotment for works in the Madras P. W. D. is about 5 times what it is here now. We have here 1 Chief Engineer and 1 Assistant Engineer under Direction, whereas in Madras they have 2 Chief Engineers, 4 Deputy and Assistant Secretaries, 3 Consulting Architects, 5 Superintending Engineers, 1 Sanitary Engineer and 3 Deputy and Assistant Sanitary Engineers, all coming under Direction. Under Construction we have 6 Executive Engineers including the one in charge of the Workshops and Stores and 16 Assistant and 5 Sub-Engineers, whereas in Madras they have 32 Executive Engineers, 27 Assistant Executive Engineers, 4 Superintendents of the same status as the above for Workshops, 79 Assistant Engineers and 5 Sub-Engineers. The average grant for works in a P. W. Division here is 4½ lakhs and in Madras it is less than 3½ lakhs. The average grant for a Sub-Division in Travancore is Rs. 1·6 lakhs, against about 1 lakh in Madras.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to know how many Executive Engineers there are in the Tinnevelly District?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): There is perhaps only one, proportionate to the expenditure there, which is Rs. 3 lakhs or less.

I hope that the above figures will convince the members who are interested in the administration of the P. W. D. that it is being conducted on as economical lines as possible. The demand for more allotments and retrenchment of superior staff will conduce only to the lessening of the efficiency and not to the improving of it in which all of us are wholeheartedly interested.

Coming now to the next point; *i. e.*, paper allotments and grants unspent, I have to state that it was inevitable in some instances where allotments had been provided in the budget, for works without even a preliminary rough estimate of cost or for works the outlay on which had largely exceeded the sanction or for works which could very well wait. The Account Officer and the Government have been repeatedly pointing out the irregular expenditure which was being incurred by the P. W. D. under several main heads *viz.*, want of sanctioned estimates, excess over sanctioned estimates, want of allotment, and excess over allotments.

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These were being carefully looked into by the Division Officers this year, and estimates and revised estimates were being got ready, designs were being prepared and the irregular outlays being regularised. Accordingly, the works concerned did not make proportionate progress in the first half of the year. I believe the members and Government expect me to keep strict watch over all irregular expenditure. There are instances of works being resumed immediately the estimates or revised estimates were ready and proper explanations for the excesses were forthcoming from the Division Officers.

The reorganisation brought into force in the beginning of the year along with the retrenchment of the staff has also had some disturbing effect. The Kodayar Project Division and the Trivandrum Division were enlarged each by the addition of one Sub-division and one section and the Canal Sub-division which was attached to the Quilon division was abolished and the several sections were added on to the respective Trivandrum, Quilon, Kottayam and Alwaye Divisions. There were necessarily changes in three Division charges, and several Sub-division and section charges. The progress of works was consequently hampered, and could not compare favourably with what obtained in 1097 in the first half of the year. But conditions settled towards Minam and the proportionate expenditure from Minam onwards compares very favourably with what it was in 1097. A few Division Officers reported small surrenders but some others applied for more allotments. On the whole, I do not anticipate at this stage any large lapse. The lapses are a normal feature of departments like the P. W. D. and it is not wise to spend up funds for the mere pleasure of spending them up.

In regard to the lapses referred to by the Financial Secretary in his speech or memorandum, and adverted to by some of the members, I have to state that the lapses shown in the budget relate mainly to the Delhi Palace Works and establishment and reserve.

Regarding more allotment for communications, I have to state whatever schemes and estimates were ready have been duly provided for to the extent of our spending capacity. If more schemes and estimates can be got ready in the course of the year, it may be possible to find funds from the reserve or by supplemental grants. As usual, the Alwaye and Kottayam Divisions comprising practically the Kottayam Revenue Division get an allotment of Rs 3,13,000 under works while the Quilon Division corresponding fairly to the Revenue Division gets Rs. 1,69,000 and the Trivandrum P. W. D. Division and the Kodayar Project Division get only Rs. 48,000 and Rs. 51,000 each. It is not fair to judge taluk by taluk. We do not keep accounts by taluks and all will agree that the taluks in a Division are all interconnected and interrelated to one another.

Regarding the inadequate allotment for new works under communications, I have to state that the incomplete works already in hand must have their due share of the available allotment, before launching on new works and schemes.

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Regarding more allotments for Minor Irrigation, I have to state that the budget allotment for works in 1098 was only Rs. 68,000 and that it has been found possible to increase it to Rs. 1,14,000 in 1099. It may be mentioned here that all breaches which were caused by the cyclone of Vrischikam last in channels and tanks were immediately closed, without allowing the cultivation to suffer, and many of the tanks in Eraniel, Vilavankod and Neyattinkara, taluks which had either breached 30 or 15 years back or gone into disrepair were takenup and the necessary improvements carried out. The long-standing breaches on the Kallada left bank were all successfully closed in the year and the lands are said to have escaped the floods during the recent monsoon rains. A reserve of Rs. 20,000 has been provided under this head, and all urgent works which may have been omitted will be carried out as soon as brought to notice.

Regarding the works in north Travancore, the department is now spending on maintenance and upkeep of the tidal bunds, etc., in the Alwaye Division a sum of about Rs. 10,600. If the requirements of the interior taluks are brought to notice, the necessary steps will be taken. The rules under the Irrigation Regulation recently published, apply to all the taluks of the State.

Regarding village roads, I have to state that this department is expected to maintain in proper condition about 1,200 miles of such roads at an average grant of Rs. 20 per mile per annum. Out of these, about 762 miles have only a grant varying from Rs. 10 to Rs. 20. Most of the village roads are in the Quilon and Alwaye P. W. Divisions. The policy of the department has been, wherever the small grant cannot be usefully utilised on the roads concerned, to utilise the grants for improving other important roads in the Division or Sub-division or taluk as may be found desirable. Instructions have been issued to utilise the grants on the roads themselves, as far as possible. I am afraid that, until Taluk Boards and Village Panchayats are established and they come forward to take up the upkeep of the local roads including village roads and traces, whatever may be done by this department may not be appreciated.

Regarding the railway from Kottarakara northwards, the survey of the line from Trivandrum to the south has first to be completed and an idea obtained as to the feasibility and cost involved, before embarking on the Kottarakara-Alwaye survey.

Regarding the bridge across the Alwaye river on the road to Parur, it is a very costly undertaking and we have to wait until the railway bridge at Alwaye is widened and the effect observed.

As to the observation of Mr. Nidiry regarding the Guest House Superintendent, the Sub-Engineer has been there for some years. The present incumbent is giving satisfaction and it may not be possible to find another equally good at a lesser pay.

Regarding Mr. Panjikaran's complaint that the construction of bridges on the Shertallai-Tannirmukkam road has not been budgeted

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[Mr. K. V. Natesa Aiyar.]

for in 1099, I have to state that, when he kindly met me in the Chief Engineer's office, I pointed out that provision has been made for the work in item 127 of the detailed P. W. budget. Apparently this has slipped from his memory. The expenditure on the work as reported by the Division officer to the end of Edavom is Rs. 3,400 and the piles and other iron materials indented for are expected to be supplied in this month.

In regard to his statement that the Chief Engineer was not conversant or posted up with the details of expenditure on works, I have to state that reports are being received from the Division officers monthly but the Alwaye Division statement for Mithunam has not been received as yet. I was therefore unable to give the up-to-date information wanted by him about the works in the Alwaye Division. I have already told him that an estimate for extending the Shertallai canal at the Shertallai end would be called for and as soon as it is received and passed by Government, the work can be started.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): I was not able to understand what the Chief Engineer was saying. He could not be heard.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Regarding Mr. Panjikaran's complaint that the construction of bridges on the Shertallai-Tannirmukkam road has not been budgeted for in 1099, I have to state that when he kindly met me in the Chief Engineer's office I pointed out that provision has been made for the work in item 127 of the budget.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Under 'culverts and bridges' no allotment is made.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The work has not been included under that item. In this particular case, the construction of the bridges is included in the estimate for the road itself.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Then what is the meaning of putting a separate head for 'culverts and bridges'?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): This is a matter of estimating.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): The bridge across the Shertallai canal has been under construction for the past so many years.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I will issue instructions to expendite the work.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Is the Chief Engineer aware that in the Alleppey-Shertallai canal the Shertallai end is covered up by sand for want of maintenance?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Yes; there is no traffic there. That is a small matter.

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MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): I wish to know whether if the canal is silted up it would be a small matter?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The local executive Engineer will be asked to see to it.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Sir, among the few members who spoke about the working of the Agricultural Department I find my old friends, Mr. V. Kunjukrishna Pillai and Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman. Mr. V. Kunjukrishna Pillai accused the department of not having introduced new crops. Well, I must plead guilty to that charge. I must say I have not succeeded—of course, I have not attempted—in introducing into Travancore wheat, barley, oats or turnip, crops that grow in cold countries. The department has been concentrating its attention on the improvement of the existing crops, and I believe the Travancore Agricultural Department is not the only department that has committed that mistake—if it is a mistake. If you are acquainted with the work of the department in any other part of India, I do not think you will find a single instance of the Agricultural Department having succeeded in introducing into the country new crops. Everywhere they are concentrating their attention on the improvement of the existing crops.

Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai then said that the demonstrations that are being conducted are not successful. I do not know if he takes the trouble of reading my annual reports. I am not sure whether he has copies of it. If not, I shall be glad to supply him with copies. Last year's annual report, for instance, will show that, as regards paddy, one of our most important crops, the department conducted demonstrations on ryots' lands in as many as 34 centres and all these demonstrations produced very good results. The same will be found in the case of cocoanut, another important crop, on which we are concentrating our attention; and, wherever we have spent one rupee for manure or for improved seeds, we find invariably—of course there may be failures also—that we get at least two rupees.

Mr. Kunjitomman thinks that the expenditure incurred on the Agricultural Department is too much and that the expenditure can conveniently be reduced. I shall just give a few figures, Sir, to show that the expenditure that the Travancore Government incur on account of the Agricultural Department is not only not high but not even adequate. In Bombay they are spending on an average Rs. 8·3 for 100 of the population, in Madras, Rs. 3, in Mysore, Rs. 6·8, in Baroda Rs. 4·9 and in Travancore we are spending Rs. 3·9. If we take revenue as the criterion, for every thousand rupees of the total revenue Bombay is spending Rs. 11, Madras Rs. 7·7, Baroda Rs. 4·9, Mysore Rs. 12·8 and Travancore Rs. 7·8. Well, at any rate, these figures—I have not taken the case of western countries show that the expenditure in Travancore on the Agricultural Department is by no means excessive, compared to the expenditure in other parts of India.

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[Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai.]

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to ask what proportion of the expenditure on the Agricultural Department is paid to the officers and what is actually spent on the work of improvement.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I have not calculated that percentage. I think that that information is available in the budget.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I asked the question, because, if in addition to these interesting figures given by him, he had also worked out the figures I wanted, he could have carried conviction. (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: No experiments can be conducted unless there is somebody to make the experiments, Mr. Velu Pillai.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): From the nature of the figures given by Dr. Kunjan Pillai we were able to draw certain conclusions. In order to compare and to be benefited by the percentage given by him I wanted to know the percentage spent on salaries and on experiments.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): In British Indian provinces or in Travancore?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Only for Travancore.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): The figures I quoted include all the charges. I shall work out the percentage wanted and furnish it to Mr. Velu Pillai later on.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I do not want them. I shall work them out myself.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Another charge against the department is that the usefulness of the department is not in any way proportionate to the expenditure incurred. Mr. Kunjitomman thinks that maintenance of Agricultural Farms is necessary but that a few acres, say 10 or 12 will be ample. Sir, I differ from him. Experimental and demonstration farms in India and elsewhere are very large and are generlly 200 or 300 acres in extent. He admits the necessity for maintaining experimental farms, but questions the usefulness of the department compared to the expenditure incurred. That is a matter of opinion. I can give illustrations to show the usefulness of the department. I think gentlemen of this House will admit that during the last 10 or 12 years there has been a general awakening throughout the country for agricultural improvement. It may be, some may say, due to other causes. I think I must say that the department has also contributed to that general awakening in the country. Wherever you go, you find cultivators taking interest in agricultural improvements and asking for information about new methods of manuring and cultivation.

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As a matter of fact the enquiries received in my office conclusively prove the awakening in the country in agricultural improvements. It is not possible to show results all over the country at once. But if you go to any part of Travancore, you will find one or other item of interest in regard to agricultural improvements. Go to Nagercoil side; you will find that we have succeeded in introducing improvement, for instance, in economic planting of one or two seedlings. Then go to Alleppey side; you will find there improvements in regard to *punja* cultivation. Those who are acquainted with *punja* cultivation will admit that, till about a few years ago, nobody even tried lime on their lands. If you go now and ask any *punja* ryot, I am sure he will tell you that lime is essential for his soil. Go to any part of Travancore, you will find clear evidence of the work the department has done. It is in regard to the adequacy of the work of the department that I differ from some of the members. Then, Sir, my friend, Mr. Kumara Pillai, has given some figures. I must give some more figures to prove the inaccuracy of his statements.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Does he realise that the figures for Mysore are wrong? Mysore spends Rs. 1,85,000 out of a revenue of Rs. 2,90,00,000.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I took the figures from 1922—23 Mysore budget and it includes expenditure on sericulture also.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): No. My figures are from the latest *i. e.*, 1923—24 Mysore budget.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): How does it work out at six per cent. in the revenue?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Rs. $4\frac{3}{4}$ crores.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Rs. 6·8 for every hundred persons of the population and Rs. 12·8 per Rs. 1,000 of the total revenue. I gave two sets of figures. I made a mistake in the heading. One is Rs. 6·8 for 100 of the population and the other is Rs. 12·8 per Rs. 1,000 of the total revenue.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): I believe that a mistake has arisen with regard to other figures also.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): For one hundred of the population the cost is Rs. 6·8 and for one thousand rupees of the total revenue the cost is Rs. 12·8 for Mysore. The corresponding figures for Travancore are Rs. 3·9 and Rs. 7·8. These figures are all right. Only I am sorry I made a mistake in regard to the heading. Then, my friend, Mr. Kumara Pillai gave some figures. He always goes by the value of paddy imported. I don't agree there. To get an idea of our position in regard to the paddy that we import, we should only look to the actual quantity imported. In regard to that, during the four years before the war, I find we were importing on an average 1,31,592 tons of paddy per annum, during the

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[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

four years of the war the average was 1,45,877 tons per annum and during the four years after the war the average was 1,50,851 tons per annum. And so the increase from the pre-war period to the present period, *i. e.*, for 12 years, is only 14·6 per cent. Well, from the figures which Mr. Kumara Pillai quoted this morning, the increase appeared to be considerably more; that does not represent the correct situation. But, when the quantity is taken into consideration, the increase is only 14·6 per cent. as I said. You must also take into consideration the increase of population. From 1086 to 1097 the population increased by 577,087 roughly. It has been calculated from a number of data that the average food requirement per head per annum is one-fifth of a ton. If you take into account the increase of population from 1086 to 1097, there should have been an increase in the import of paddy to the extent of 115,417 tons. But the actual increase is only 19,259 tons of paddy. This shows that we have produced locally more paddy, or at any rate, more foodstuffs. I don't emphasise the production of paddy particularly. It may be that we have produced more tapioca or more fish.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know if the fluctuation in prices may not have considerably affected the quantity imported?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I have not taken that factor into consideration.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): I will try to explain. My figures are for decennial periods, say, from 1056 to 1066, 1066 to 1076. I have taken the total value and then divided it by population. That is how I arrived at the average figure.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I must say that the figures in regard to quantity are not available to Mr. Kumara Pillai and so, he takes value only into consideration. That is not a correct criterion.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): In 20 years prices have increased. Taking this into consideration you must calculate and arrive at the quantity.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Such of those figures as are available have been taken from the reports of the Excise Department. I find from 1086 to 1097 there is an increase of population by 577,081. The increased import of paddy is 19,259 tons only whereas we should have imported 1,15,417 tons.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): He has taken four years before the war, four years during the war and four years after the war.

MR T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I am obliged to ask one more question. Has Dr. Kunjan Pillai been able to find out the figures regarding the increase in the quantity of paddy imported into Madras and Cochin during the last five years and

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compare it with the quantity imported into Travancore? I ask this question, because he gave us detailed figures of income and expenditure on agriculture.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I am sorry I have not got those figures. But I have some information which, I think, will be useful to him. In Mysore the Dewan, in his recent speech, said that for the population there which is about 5½ millions, food requirement is estimated at 111,92,000 *pallas*; but the country produces only 81,47,968 *pallas*, that is, two thirds of the requirements; and one third is imported.

PRESIDENT: That does not answer the question.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Ceylon, for example, has got very nearly 800,000 acres of land under paddy cultivation and a population of about 45 lakhs, that is, as much as ours, and yet Ceylon imports very nearly 4,85,000 tons of paddy every year. The inadequacy of local production of food-stuffs is a common phenomenon all over the world.

It must also be remembered that while we imported nearly Rs. 226,00,000 worth of paddy and rice in 1097 we sent out nearly Rs. 3,60,73,258 worth of cocoanut products. This means that we produce cocoanut products and send them out and buy paddy and rice. This is a common phenomenon everywhere. For example, Ceylon, which produces rubber and tea, exports those articles and imports paddy and other articles instead.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Is it not due to the fact that more lands are brought under cultivation?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): That also has been taken into consideration.

Mr. Kochukunju Pillai spoke about the concession granted to Mr. Cox for the exploitation of *ceta*. This question came up before the Economic Development Board. Mr. Kochukunju Pillai said that we are not going to get any revenue out of it. That is not a fact. We are going to get by this concession very nearly Rs. 10,000 per annum and that from an area from which we are not getting anything now. This is capable of further development, but to begin with we shall get at least Rs. 10,000 annually.

One word more. Mr. Kumara Pillai spoke about the condition of the Sri Mulam Technical School here. Sir, we are all talking of technical education. We find that our education is too literary, and all the boys turned out of the school cannot get employment. The representatives of the people have been urging upon the Government the necessity to provide more technical education and the Government have started besides other schools, the Sri Mulam Technical School. At my instance, they have also started agricultural schools. These are intended to provide technical education to the boys. Government can only provide this education by starting technical schools and cannot undertake the responsibility of finding employment for all the boys, who are being

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[Mr. L. C. Hodgson.]

trained in these schools. It is too much to expect of Government to do so. They have started these schools. Boys come in and get themselves trained, and when they pass out they are given certificates. The same is the case in regard to agricultural schools also. We started out at Alwaye and propose to start another at Kottarakarai.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether the question of unemployment is absolutely no concern of Government?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): It is not for me to answer that question. It is a broad question of policy.

PRESIDENT: What Dr. Kunjan Pillai implies is that it should be the effort of Government to tackle with the unemployment question. The institution of these schools is for the purpose of enabling the boys to be useful for the purpose.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, quite a large number of points have been raised during this discussion with respect to the Education Department. It would have given me very great pleasure to deal with all of them, but the sudden and inexplicable attack of dumbness which afflicted members on that side of the House yesterday afternoon, happily only temporarily, has curtailed our time and I am afraid that it is only possible to deal with one or two points.

The point which I think has raised more interest than any others is the question of fee concessions granted to backward classes and depressed classes. I need say nothing, I think, about the fee concession granted to the *depressed* classes. Only one member, I believe, has raised any kind of opposition to it. I think it was my friend Mr. K. P. Ramakrishna Pillai whose idea seems to be that the depressed classes are somewhat pampered—

PRESIDENT: He is known as Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai. (*Laughter.*)

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am very sorry I was not properly understood by Mr. Hodgson. I did not say anything against them.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): He said that some day the marriages of their daughters would be undertaken by Government, and if this is not 'pampering' I don't know what is.

I think, Sir, I need say nothing further on the question of fee concession to the depressed classes because I take it that everybody agrees that the concessions are right and proper.

I should like to say, however, something with regard to the concession granted to other classes of the community who are described

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as backward classes. I should like to say first of all that caste considerations have nothing whatsoever to do with this question. It was decided on two principal grounds. The first ground was that of literacy. In considering the condition of literacy of the population of Travancore, we saw that with the exception of the three classes, Brahmins, Nairs and Christians, all the other classes of the population put together reached barely one per cent. of literacy in English. Therefore it was thought right and proper that those classes who showed practically no percentage of literacy in English should be encouraged to attend English schools in greater numbers. I might also say that the fact that all these classes are, with a few individual exceptions, poor, was also taken into consideration.

Mr. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): How was it ascertained?

Mr. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I think that it is common knowledge that they are generally poor.

Mr. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know what the percentage of literacy among the Nambudiri Brahmins is?

Mr. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I must ask for notice of that question.

Mr. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know if Mr. Hodgson is aware of the answer given by the Government of Travancore at the last session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly to the Nadar community when they pressed for a similar concession and the ground on which that answer was given?

Mr. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I cannot give the answer at the present moment and I do not know the reason for the answer given by Government.

I take it from what some of the members said yesterday and to-day that they would like to have the same fee concession granted to members of communities who are not backward in English education but who are poor and deserving. I might say in that connection that that also has not escaped the attention of Government. I would point out that last year when a certain sum of money was set apart for distribution to the classes in English schools that were regarded as backward in point of English literacy, *i. e.*, to the classes excluding Nairs, Christians and Brahmins, a certain percentage of that amount was at the same time given to those members of the Brahmin, Christian and Nair communities who were certified to be poor and deserving. I think that will show that the Government have not lost sight of the fact that there are poor pupils among all classes; and I may say further that the Scholarships Committee which was appointed about a year ago and on which certain non-official members of this House sat, have recommended that the principal ground for the award of scholarships should be poverty combined with merit.

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[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : Was any concession given to the poor among the Brahmins? Why do you not grant concessions to poor Brahmin, Nair and other caste Hindus?

PRESIDENT : Mr. Hodgson was just now saying that such a provision was made and scholarships given last year.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*) : What is the extent of the amount that was spent on behalf of other communities last year?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*) : The total amount spent for the different communities is Rs. 6,600. The amounts actually given to each community, I cannot give now.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : May I know whether there is any arrangement in the department whereby the children of Eurasians, – I mean Anglo-Indians (*laughter*)—should learn Malayalam and Tamil? I enquire whether the children of Anglo-Indians who are permanently settled down are being encouraged by this concesssion to learn Malayalam and Tamil, the languages of the country.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*) : I do not think they are directly encouraged to do so. They are being encouraged to go to schools where the curriculum provides for the study of these two languages also.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : May I know whether Mr. Hodgson is aware that the question of fee concessions was beyond the scope of the reference to the Scholarships Committee?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*) : I do not deny that. Nor did I say anything on that point at all. I referred to the Scholarships Committee and said that that committee has made a recommendation to the Government that the award of scholarships should be primarily on the ground of proverty combined with merit. But when we come to the question of poverty, there is one very great difficulty. Members of this Council who served on that committee admitted that it is not always possible to be sure that pupils are poor. The fact is, as I think, Mr. Kumaran who was a member of that committee has observed, that while there are certain pupils about whose poverty there can be no manner of doubt, there are a very great number of cases where it is impossible to say and is extremely difficult to prove that the pupil is really poor. Nevertheless, I believe that it is the intention of the Government to endeavour to establish some form of agency by which that matter may be determined, and I think I am not going too far in saying that, if some such agency can be set up, then the poor pupil may be given a concession, no matter to what creed he belongs.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : May I know whether, if it is proved to the satisfaction of the Director of

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Public Instruction that a boy belonging to the depressed classes is rich and can afford to pay the fee, the fee can be realised from him even though he belongs to one of the depressed classes?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Not under the present regulations. But there is nothing to prevent such a boy paying fees. And I may say that I have known cases in England of young men getting open scholarships at Oxford University who surrendered the whole of the value because they had private means.

Another point that was raised yesterday and partly today was the treatment accorded to private schools by the department. The Rev. Father Kuriakose Vettikapalli and Mr. Hoogewerf and Mr. Nidiry, all talked on that matter. The Rev. Father and Mr. Nidiry began by attacking Dr. Mitchell. Dr. Mitchell, said Mr. Nidiry, declared war on private schools. Sir, we all know that the evil that men do lives after them, and the good is oft forgotten when they take their pension. So let it not be with Dr. Mitchell. Dr. Mitchell did not declare war against private schools but against *bad* private schools? (*Hear hear and laughter.*) He did help any well-conducted private school. It is true that Dr. Mitchell's policy was to establish Government schools, not because he condemned all private schools but because he wanted to establish a pattern and a model on which private schools may be conducted. The Rev. Father stated, and Mr. Nidiry said the same somewhat grudgingly, that the policy of the department is more lenient towards private schools than it used to be. I am sorry that they spoke so grudgingly because my plea is that the policy of the Government has been for several years most encouraging to private enterprise and I think the figures that I can put forward will prove the truth of my contention. To-day the department maintains only 1,100 educational institutions, while private managers conduct as many as 2,092. These figures speak for themselves.

MR A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What is the expenditure on these two classes of schools?

PRESIDENT: That does not arise.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): The Rev. Father stated that it was rather a niggardly policy of the Government to allot only Rs. 4,68,000 to private schools. I do not know where he got his figures from.

REV. FATHER KURIAKOSE VETTIKAPALLI (*Todupuzha cum Kunnatnad*): From the Administration Report of last year, *i. e.* 1097.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Last year? We are not discussing the Administration Report of last year. We are discussing the budget of 1099, and if the Rev. Father will look—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): That is the latest figure available.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Well, no doubt, if he looks into the budget for 1099 he will find that the sum

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[Mr. L. C. Hodgson.]

allotted towards private schools is Rs. 7,52,250, wihch is a very liberal allotment. That sum, I might say, is equal to the whole educational budget of Dr. Mitchell's day who had only about Rs. 7½ lakhs.

REV. FATHER KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*): Will the Director of Public Instruction tell me how many private schools there were when Dr. Mitchell left Travancore?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Obviously not so many as there are now. But I cannot give the exact number.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I am asking another question. I wish to know whether a private school or a Government school is cheaper from the point of view of Government finance.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Necessarily a private school costs Government less than a Government school.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): In private schools—

PRESIDENT: How does this question of comparative cost of private and departmental schools arise now?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): In order to consider the policy of encouraging private education, we should have an idea of the comparative expenditure on either and see if it is to our interest to add to the number of departmental schools.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): In the departmental schools, the lowest teacher gets Rs. 14, or if he is trained Rs. 15 and the headmaster Rs.19. In private schools, the Government grant for the lowest class teacher will be about Rs. 7½ and never more than Rs. 11 or Rs. 12 so that it necessarily costs Government much more to conduct departmental schools than to aid private schools.

REV. FATHER KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*): Will Mr. Hodgson tell me one or two instances where Dr. Mitchell had been encouraging private institutions?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Yes. The Scott Christian High School at Nagercoil, and the C. M. S. College at Kottayam and others were encouraged.

REV. FATHER KURIAKOSE VETTIKAPALLI: (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*): They were exceptions. Does Mr. Hodgson know that Dr. Mitchell was bargaining to purchase as many of the private institutions as he could?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I have no information on that point. Then I was going to point out that in addition to this allotment for grants-in-aid aggregating to Rs. 7,52,250 the private schools also participate in the scholarships given by Government and participate largely in them; and they also participate in the stipends to private school teachers who go to the training schools or the Training College. I should say that it is not far off Rs. 8 lakhs that goes to

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help private enterprise. I think, Sir, that it may be conceded that the policy of the Government towards private schools at the present day is not niggardly. On the other hand, if we are charged with want of sympathy, I should, in fairness to the department say that often it is really not because we do not wish to encourage them, but because managers and would-be managers stand in the way. It is the practice of the managers to open schools and classes without seeking the permission of the department which the Code demands. And, Sir, though they are full of promises, that they will do this and that they will do that, they are very slow in the performance of their promises. We are full of sympathy and ready to encourage them as far as possible, but if they systematically break the rules of the Education Code which it is my duty to enforce what can we do?

REV. FATHER KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha cum Kunnatnad*): Does Mr. Hodgson mean to say that when the managers can equip the schools and stand on their own legs, he comes to help them and that when they cannot, he does not help them in their need?

When they are all right, that is to say, in the matter of buildings, equipment and supply of teachers, there is no difficulty for them, though he wants to help them. Does he mean to say that?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I do not say anything like that.

PRESIDENT: The Department only requires conformity to the rules.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): If I may deal with one or two other points briefly, Sir, I may say that the next matter brought forward by the Rev. Father was the question of religious instruction in reorganised schools. I do not want to say more than one word. The position is that the Government in reply to a deputation that waited on the Dewan have undertaken to consider the matter and pass orders upon the representations that have been made to them. And in the meanwhile the Rev. Father may be glad to know that the heads of the several religious bodies that conduct schools in Travancore are being given the opportunity of expressing their views upon that question.

Mr. K. Parameswaran Pillai rightly observed that 55·7 is the percentage of pupils that are undergoing primary school education. If you include unrecognised schools also the percentage is 61·1. He complained that we are not giving universal primary education. I will only say that we are gradually progressing year by year towards that goal; and I may also say that it is my belief that this consummation will be brought about in due time when local bodies are brought into being to relieve the department of the cost of maintaining them. There have been proposals for the establishment of such bodies from time to time and I believe it is the policy of the Government sooner or later to establish them. Government will be in a far better position then to enforce

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[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

universal primary education. I would remind Mr. Parameswaran Pillai that Rome was not built in a day. For us it is a question of very great expenditure, the funds for which we have not got at present.

Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai also alluded to the pay of the Vernacular school teachers. I do not propose to speak on it now, as I expect I shall have an opportunity of speaking about it in the course of the next week.

Another point he referred to was how we are going to finance the University of Travancore when it comes into being. May I point out that after all it is the non-official members of the Council that demanded that a University should be established in Travancore?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know if Government do not feel the necessity for it at all?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I do not deny that. Over ten years ago, long before the people began to ask for it I myself suggested the idea. But I believe the present proposal for a University came from Mr. Velu Pillai at a meeting of this assembly.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will not the Government carry out the proposal now?

PRESIDENT: Government have only appointed a committee and it is too soon to say what decision the Government will come to.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): I am sorry to say that Mr. Hodgson has misunderstood my position. I did not say that we are launching upon this University scheme without sufficient funds and that the Government was wrong. What I was saying was that the Government have already appointed a committee to consider this question and I was asking the Government to so balance the budget as to adequately find funds to push on with progressive schemes when the time comes for the Government to take them up.

PRESIDENT: The Government have not committed themselves to any scheme for the establishment of a University.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Anyhow the fact remains that the suggestion has come from that side of the House itself. Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai advocated the *immediate* establishment of a University.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): True, it has originated from this side of the House; but I want to know whether it was not accepted by the other side.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I rise to a point of order. I want to know whether that question is relevant to the discussion. The question at present is not whether that idea originated from this side or from that side of the House. I request a ruling from the Chair.

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PRESIDENT: I think it is for the Chair to object to any particular statement. The statement has been made and the Chair *has not objected.*

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): One remark made by Mr. Krishna Aiyar, in dulcet tones, rather struck my attention. It was to the effect that schools and colleges of Travancore are adding to the number of unemployed consumers. Sir, it seems to me that our department is between two fires, or, to use a common expression is between the devil and the deep sea. (*Laughter.*) At the beginning of the year there is a clamour for admission to the schools and colleges; and if admission is not given indignation and protest meetings are held in this hall and elsewhere. On the other hand if we do admit them we are told by Mr. Krishna Aiyar that we are adding to the number of unemployed consumers.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): That is no charge against the department but against the system of education.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): It is against the system of education, which the department administers and is responsible for. I would only say, Sir, that I have considered very carefully indeed this question of whether we are justified in admitting so many pupils to the schools and colleges and giving them the education we do. I think, Sir, we *are* justified, although it is rather difficult to explain it. I feel that it is good mentally and morally for every pupil to undergo each stage of education it is possible for him to reach, whether it is the vernacular primary stage or that of the vernacular middle schools, which Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai wishes to abolish, or of the English Schools. I feel all the more that now that we have got an electorate by which the majority of this House is elected; we do not want people to be merely literate to be able only to read and write; we want them to be able to discriminate; we want them to take an intelligent interest in the questions of the day and to be able to form a judgment on what is said to them by the members of this Council when they meet their constituency and to distinguish which is the right and which is the wrong candidate. I think, Sir, we are justified in giving education to all who demand it.

There are several other points which, as I said at the beginning, I want to refer to; but there is very little time; and as I think several of them will recur in the course of next week, I will not speak on them now.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, in the course of the discussions yesterday and to-day, it was pointed out by some of the members on the other side that one of the sources of augmenting the resources of the State was the development of the forests.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): We cannot hear him.

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[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: If the House has no objection, I will ask him to come to the front and make his speech.

(Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai came nearer to the non-official members and spoke.)

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): While thanking my friends for the several suggestions made, I must inform the House that any impression that our forests can be made to yield still further increased revenue is erroneous. I have been in charge of almost all the divisions of the State and I am in a position to know exactly where we stand. A public announcement like this from me will rather be a disappointment but there is no use mincing matters and hiding facts.

In the first place, Sir, the fundamental basis on which forestry rests is the conservation of the forests, so that a sustained yield may be ensured and the requirements of the present and future generations met. The realisation of revenue is only a secondary consideration. Indeed all foresters agree that considerations of revenue should not interfere with the management of forests if its perpetuity and sustained yield are to be maintained. It was want of adherence to this principle that has brought ruination on several forests. After years of uncontrolled lumbering, America is realising its past folly now and they are going in for extensive and costly methods for regenerating their forests and preserving what little is left. Not far from us is also the example of the Cochin State which went in for a costly tramway to exploit its forest, which has practically ruined it and which in a way is lying idle for want of sufficient work.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Sir, I am one of those persons who spoke about the forests. I did not mean that there should be indiscriminate felling of trees. I want to make revenue from forest consistent with conservation.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I am coming to that. To still further bring home to the House the fallacy of this demand for increased revenue, I would crave permission to mention a few facts relating to our own State which will convince the House that the abnormal revenue obtained in certain years, during the last few years, has been achieved by methods opposed to the principles of forestry or by makeshifts which bore no mark of permanency or continuity. During the time of Mr. Bourdillon, the gross revenue of the department ranged between Rs. 6 and Rs. 9 lakhs and the expenditure averaged between Rs. 5 to Rs. 6 lakhs giving annually a net average revenue of about Rs. 2½ to Rs. 3½ lakhs. When Mr. Bourdillion was succeeded by Mr. Rama Rao, he restricted the felling of royal trees from inside the reserve but let into the market a larger quantity of these timbers felled from outside the reserves while junglewood also was introduced into the market in equally large quantities. The revenue during his time went up to about Rs. 12 lakhs annually and the expenditure also rose correspondingly. Mr. Subrahmanya Aiyar's administration was marked by still

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higher flights in the matter of revenue and the gross income of the department went up to Rs. 16 lakhs, the maximum ever reached. To reduce the expenditure and to increase the net revenue, he also introduced the system of extensive coupe sales. I believe the House is already aware of the disastrous results that followed in the wake and from the entanglements of which the department has not yet recovered. The natural consequence of such rapid inflation of revenue is a corresponding fall in subsequent years and the revenue of the department again fell to Rs. 12 lakhs. Sleeper supply to the railway company was therefore undertaken on an extensive scale and the revenue again went up to Rs. 15¼ lakhs last year, and we are feeling the effect of this again this year. Though the sleeper supply brought us an immediate return, it has left behind an enormous quantity of resultant materials which would take a long time to be disposed of.

It will be evident from what has been stated that abnormal increase in revenue can be achieved only by extensive sales of timber or of big timber coupes regardless of the principles of sylviculture or forest conservancy, and nothing can be more suicidal to the well-being of our forests than those erratic methods of inflating the revenue.

In the conference of forest officers, we have given to the matter of improving our revenue careful consideration; and one and all of us have come to the conclusion that Rs. 12 lakhs annually can be the maximum that can be expected from our forests; and if we exceed this amount, we would be trenching upon the capital wealth of the State forests which we are bound in conscience to preserve undiminished for the benefit of the future generations.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Is Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai aware that in Mysore they have always been realising double the amount of the annual expenditure from the Forest Department?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): May be. But there is nothing to show how they stand. We are speaking only with reference to our forests.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Will Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai tell me whether in fixing the maximum revenue the conference fixed also the expenditure?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Expenditure will be a varying item.

I should like to take advantage of this opportunity to enlighten the House on another point about which also there is some misconception, *viz.*, the development of minor forest produce to augment the revenue of the department.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai, louder please.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): As regards this, I have to say that the popular idea that there is untold wealth latent in our forests is only a matter of conjecture. I have

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[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

some acquaintance with the forests of the State and I must confess that I am rather pessimistic in this view. A great portion of the forest revenue under this head in the Madras Presidency is made up of revenue under grazing, fuel, fodder grass, etc., but here in Travancore we allow free grazing to Travancore cattle and cannot find a sale for any fodder grass. Fuel is also abundant in private lands in many of the taluks of the State. Our revenue is therefore mainly dependent on timber and if more revenue is to be realised, it must necessarily mean the felling of more trees and greater output of timber into the market, and a further crippling of our resources that ought in fairness to be conserved for the sake of our successors.

Perhaps the question may be asked why the department has not utilised its other minor forest products, why we have not investigated their utility and turned them into commercial account and created demands for them, why we have not introduced labour-saving machines and up-to-date appliances to reduce the cost of exploitation. To the credit of those that held the reins of the department hitherto it must be said that very earnest attempts were made in these directions, but experience has shown that they were not quite suited to our country. We got down a traction engine and accessories for the haulage of timber but it was found from experience that transport by cart was cheaper and less troublesome while the cost of maintenance and upkeep of the tractor was prohibitively high. The engine, after lying idle for several years, has now been transferred to the P. W. D. We also introduced a sawmill but that also proved equally a failure and had to be disposed of later.

The leases of the oil seeds and *nux vomica* granted to large capitalists have shown us where the lessees have landed themselves in spite of their command of money and large resource. The Hind Candle Works Company which took up the lease of *vateria indica* and other oil seeds have not collected and removed from the forests a rupee worth of this stuff though they have paid us since their contract over Rs. 40,500. The Pioneer Alkali Works which took up the lease of *nux vomica* fared equally badly and have not collected so far one chackram worth of the produce from our forests though we have realised from them Rs. 1,500 or more. Under the term minor forest produce is included a variety of produce some of which occur only in very small quantities and that too scattered over the whole area. Their cost of collection and consumption is beset with considerable difficulty and this is one of the handicaps for development. I may, however, assure the House that the department is making every earnest attempt possible to develop the revenue from this source. I was engaged in 1096 as Utilisation Officer for about six months, when I investigated the possibility of utilising the enormous growth of *eeta* occurring in the Northern Division for the manufacture of paper pulp. The result of the investigation showed that annually about 19,000 tons of *eeta* could be cut without depleting the forest and this was

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sufficient to yield 8,000 tons of pulp. But on account of the high cost involved in the setting up of a pulp mill and the low price at which German and American paper was being dumped into the Indian market the scheme has to be taken up cautiously. But, Mr. Cox of Messrs. Brunton and Sons of Cochin who has invented a machine to use the *eeta* for making match boxes and matches, attracted by the data made available as a result of the investigation, came forward with an application for the lease to him of the *eeta* and the negotiations have now been completed by which a minimum amount of nearly Rs. 10,000 is assured to Government for the first ten years and with prospect of further increase amounting to several thousands beyond this period.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): I wish to know from the Conservator whether lemon grass is growing largely in the reserves and whether the department is deriving any benefit out of it.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It is found here and there; but it is difficult to work it on a commercial scale. When the lease for lemon grass was put up to auction in the Northern Division, nobody came forward from Mr. Khadir Pillai's taluk to bid.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): I myself purchase lemon grass oil for Rs. 10 lakhs every year.

PRESIDENT: You purchase oil, and not grass. (*Laughter.*)

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There is however a small area of about 30 ares near the plantation at Malayattur encroached upon and cultivated unauthorisedly. When the lease of this area was auctioned last year it only fetched Rs. 20.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I beg to know whether the area in which the *eeta* grass is growing is fit for agricultural purposes.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): No. It is absolutely unfit for agricultural purposes.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Has it been tried?

PRESIDENT: It is on the slopes of the tributaries of the Periyar river and therefore cannot be used for cultivation.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): From what has been stated, I hope it will be conceded that the Forest Department should not be counted as one with a guaranteed revenue every year. The realisation of revenue here depends on several factors. With a dull and erratic market, with little or no local demand for timber, with the abundance of fuel and fodder all over the country, with free grazing permitted everywhere, with competition of private timber from different centres, we should consider ourselves fortunate if we can secure perpetually an yearly revenue of Rs. 12 lakhs.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): മെച്ചിൽ സ്ഥലങ്ങളും പച്ചിലവളവും കിട്ടാതെ ജനങ്ങൾ വളരെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു കൺസർവേറ്റർക്കു അറിയാമോ?

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[Mr. K. George.]

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Mr. Kumara Pillai is probably ignorant of the notice recently published in the Gazette whereby by paying a seigniorage of four chackrams a cart-load of green leaves can be removed from the reserved forests. Free grazing is allowed to Travancore cattle.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): സംഗതി വശാൽ ഗസറ്റിൽ ആ പരസ്യം ആദ്യമായി കണ്ടതു ഞാനാണ്. എ ന്നാൽ അതുകൊണ്ടു കൃഷിക്കാർക്കു വലിയ പ്രയോജനമുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നി ല്ല. എന്തെന്നാൽ കല്ലുളത്തുള്ള ഒരു കൃഷിക്കാരന് ഫാറസ്റ്ററേയിഞ്ചാ ഫീസ്സിലേക്ക് പത്തുനാഴിക നടന്നുപോകണം. പാസ്സിനായി അവിടെ ചെല്ലുമ്പോൾ റേയിഞ്ചാഫീസ്സർ സക്കീട്ടാണെന്നും വരാം. വനങ്ങളിൽ നിന്ന് ആക്കും ഉപയോഗമില്ലാതെ അഴുകിപ്പോകുന്ന ഒരു സാധനമാണ് പച്ചിലവളം. അതു വെറുതെ കൊടുക്കണം. അല്ലെങ്കിൽ മതിയായ പ്ര യോജനമുണ്ടാകുന്നതല്ല.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The question of the reduction of tariff rates was also referred to in the discussions. Tariff rates are only a standard for us to go by in assessing the value of timber sold. The P. W. D., *Panivagai* and other departments have to be supplied with timber and they have also the right of selection. We want some standard rates to fix the value of timber and it is chiefly for this purpose the tariff rate is adopted. In the case of the general public, unless they select and purchase timber in the depots when they also have to pay tariff rates, they are eligible to bid for timber in the monthly auctions when the price to be paid will be regulated by the quality of timber and by the general condition of the timber market. After all, a greater portion of the timber- especially royalties - finds its way ultimately outside the State and any reduction in the tariff rates would only benefit the outside merchants.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, if I were to reply at length to all the points raised in the course of the discussions yesterday and to-day, it might take not half an hour, not one hour, but several hours to finish my speech. I do not therefore wish to give any lengthy answer. I propose to confine myself to the general criticisms that have been made about the budget.

Before I proceed further, I wish to refer to the discussion that has taken place about the reference in my opening speech to the work of the Finance Committee—rather the joint labours of the Finance Committee and the Government. I am not oblivious of the fact that the scope of the Finance Committee is limited by the G. O. I do not mean to imply that it was otherwise. All that I meant by that reference was that the Finance Committee did its part as far as it was permitted to do in the G. O. and went through the budget along with the Government item by item. As regards the right of the Finance Committee to

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make suggestions, the non-official members were not debarred from making suggestions, and in fact, they made suggestions and Government attached great weight to such suggestions.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Were any cuts made according to their suggestions?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I do not know if I would be justified in speaking here about the details of the proceedings of the meetings of the Finance Committee.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Is it a secret?

PRESIDENT: In the first place, whether the members of the Finance Committee themselves would be willing to have the proceedings of the committee published is not known. The matter is one which requires consideration.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Are the Government aware that the proceedings of the Finance Committee are published elsewhere?

PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, I shall first refer to the assertion made by several members that my reading of our present financial position is too optimistic, that in point of fact the financial outlook is a gloomy one, nay that we are even on the verge of absolute bankruptcy. I believe it was Mr. Madhava Variar who said that we have already reached or are about to reach the brink of a financial abyss. Sir, I do not deny my friends their right to hold to their very pessimistic and very dismal opinion. I believe it is more a matter of temperament. I daresay I may be called too optimistic; but so far as figures go, my optimism has *certainly* been justified by actual results.

First, let me refer to our assets and liabilities. It is no doubt true that the statement of assets and liabilities given on page 7 of the *Preliminary Budget* does not represent all our assets or all our liabilities, but contains only such of them as have a balance now on the financial books of the State; but in my last year's speech I gave a true statement of our assets and liabilities which were that year assets, Rs. 269 lakhs and liabilities Rs. 214 lakhs. The items of liabilities and assets which are not included in the statement are quite well known and anybody may work them without much difficulty. According to the financial statement given on page 7, the assets of the State at the end of the current year amount to Rs. 176 lakhs. Out of this, the depreciated investments in the Government of India 3½ and 3 per cent. securities amount to Rs. 50 lakhs, and these, if valued at the current market rates, would amount to Rs. 31 lakhs. A deduction of Rs. 19 lakhs will have therefore to be made. We should, however, add to our assets the cost of the two capital works which have been met

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from Government revenues, together amounting to Rs. 135 lakhs. Altogether the total assets would amount to Rs. 292 lakhs. The total of liabilities as per statement is Rs. 105·7 lakhs. To this must be added the railway debt of Rs. 133½ lakhs, thus resulting in a total liability of Rs. 239 lakhs. As regards the railway and debenture loan liabilities, I have already stated that they are fully covered by the sinking funds provided for them. The excess of assets over liabilities is thus Rs. 53 lakhs. I hope I have laid to rest the charge that our position regarding assets and liabilities is an insecure one.

Then the only occasion for anxiety will be if year after year we are to spend in excess of our income. That we do keep within our income, members very well know. Whether it is by accident or as a deliberate policy it does not matter. It is only the fact with which we are at present concerned. Mr. Padmanabha Pillai said that somehow or other we make a surplus every year. I am curious to know how a surplus can come somehow or other—as if it were a mere working of an irresponsible fate.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagappalli*): What I mean is that surplus can be obtained by a manipulation of figures.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): But the surplus is an actual fact and our treasury balance has increased.

Let Mr. Padmanabha Pillai or any of us try to get a surplus in our domestic finances somehow or other. In Mr. Micawber's words, income £ 1, expenditure 19 sh. 11 d.,- result happiness and peace of mind; income £ 1, expenditure £ 1-1 d.--result misery and a debtor's prison. I suppose we have to deliberately make up our mind to spend only 19 s. 11 d. when our income is £ 1 in order to get a surplus of 1 d.; and the same is the case with Government.

Sir, it has again been stated that our financial policy is unsound because we are building on unstable sources of revenue. So far as I know, the only unstable sources of revenue are the sale proceeds of Government waste lands and the abkari revenue. Sir, I admit that, ultimately, at some distant future date, the former will totally disappear. As regards the latter, unless absolute prohibition is practicable, it will not be reasonable to suppose that the revenue will be extinguished. No financier can or need forecast several years ahead when he prepares his budget. Any such forecast if made will, I think, be practically valueless. All that he is called upon to do is to see that year by year a sound financial policy is maintained. I claim that this is being done in the State.

My friend Mr. Changanachery Paramesvaran Pillai wanted us to look far ahead and abandon what he calls the policy of merely balancing the budget. His remarks would have had point if we had stinted expenditure in the Development Departments in recent years. First of all, taking education, we had been spending in 1088 only Rs. 12·8 lakhs. Next year

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we are going to spend Rs. 37 lakhs. Under Agriculture and Fisheries, in 1088 we were spending only Rs. 64,000. We are now spending more than Rs. 2 lakhs. Under Industries also, the expenditure has gone very high. The department was started only in 1092. So, I will take the figures for 1093. In that year, the expenditure was Rs. 22,000. For the coming year, the expenditure proposed on Industries is Rs. 1,66,000. Again, we started the Co-operative Department with Rs. 3,000 in 1091 and now we are going to spend Rs. 31,000 on it.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Has the Registrar of Co-operative Societies made any recommendation for appointing seven additional inspectors and has the recommendation been vetoed?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The information can be gathered from the budget.

We have not stinted expenditure on the Development Departments. Therefore there is not much point in saying that Government have been merely balancing the budget.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I know whether there has been a considerable reduction in the allotment of the P. W. D?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I have got P. W. D. figures as well. I forgot to refer to them. We had some curtailments in the years 1096 and 1097. In 1093, the expenditure on P. W. D. and Irrigation was only Rs. 22 lakhs.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I know what it was in 1088?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I have not got the figures. The expenditure was very large, but then the department was better manned.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Does he consider that the department is at present undermanned in point of efficiency?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I cannot say that. The department itself should say that. What I mean to say is that the allotment was reduced under certain circumstances over which we had no control; but at the same time I should point out that, to a great extent, the grant has been restored.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know whether it is good finance to cut down the expenditure on public works without proportionately reducing the establishment?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): They are past things. I think there is nothing gained by answering the question. That was several years ago.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): But is it not a fact that the figure went up to Rs. 33 lakhs and was again cut down to Rs. 23 lakhs?

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[Mr. K. George.]

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): In 1096 the expenditure was Rs. 30¾ lakhs; in 1097, it was Rs. 33 lakhs; in 1098, it is Rs. 27 lakhs.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Yes. Today, for 1099?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Rs. 28¼ lakhs.

PRESIDENT: It must also be remembered that we are economising on buildings.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I omit Palace and Maramat, but take into account the outlay on minor irrigation works.

I recognise the fact that, as Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai said, there are schemes involving expenditure of money awaiting us. He has reminded us that ultimately we may have to abandon the abkari revenue and that we shall in future be obliged to increase the expenditure on education. For instance, we shall have to make primary education compulsory and increase the pay of the primary schoolmaster. We may also have to undertake the expenditure required for starting a University; and we may have besides to incur more expenditure on the Public Works Department, on medical relief, and so on. I recognise all that. But my answer is that, in the first place, we cannot forecast so far ahead. Secondly, I was not able to find among the suggestions made in this House any constructive proposals of which the Government could take advantage. Only one or two were made and these would not go far enough. I would refer to them later on.

One of the criticisms made was that our budget estimates of the current year have been falsified by the actual results. My friend Mr. Krishna Aiyar has pointed out that, in regard to certain items, his original forecast proved truer than mine. But Mr. Krishna Aiyar has failed to mention to the House that his forecast proved true only in a single case *viz.*, Forest.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Two.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Under Land Revenue, sale of Government lands, he said he would estimate only Rs. 1,20,000 but we are going to get Rs. 3½ lakhs, although in this respect I confess I too was somewhat over-sanguine. Under Income Tax, he wanted to put down a modest figure of Rs. 3 lakhs, but the actuals are expected to be Rs. 4,35,000, which is much nearer my estimate than his.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know what the refund is expected to be?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The above amount is exclusive of refund. Again, under Customs,

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Mr. Krishna Aiyar wanted to reduce Rs. 2 lakhs and under Stamps and Registration another Rs. 2 lakhs. In all these cases, my estimates have been realised and in some cases even exceeded. On the whole, Mr. Krishna Aiyar wanted to estimate for a reduced income by about Rs. 10 lakhs or Rs. 15 lakhs. The House can decide if it would have been wise to accept his suggestions last year.

More than one member has repeated that we have been saved this year merely by the salt duty. Sir, in my first speech, I have quite clearly explained that this is not so. Granting that the salt duty was not raised, what would have been our figures? Our revenue would have been Rs. 192¼ lakhs. Our estimate of expenditure under fixed charges was Rs. 2¼ lakhs in excess of actual requirements. My friend Mr. Krishna Aiyar suggested that this excess provision must have been made deliberately or by mistake, and he hoped that it was only the latter and not the former. Some other members also said that this was done with a set purpose. Sir, the reason why we had to take the average pay of posts for our estimates of salaries and establishment, I explained in the very first paragraph of my last year's budget speech. It was due to the fact that, when the budgets were being framed, the revision of salaries was proceeding and the exact amount of salary which each individual would receive in the new scale was not then ascertainable. Omitting Rs. 2¼ lakhs out of the estimated expenditure, our expenditure would have been Rs. 191½ lakhs. Thus even granting that no lapses or surrenders had taken place in any department, the year 1098 would still have closed with a surplus of Rs. ¾ lakh which is just the amount anticipated in our original budget. Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai, Mr. Panjikaran and, I think, a few others referred to the large surrender by the P. W. D. I may point out to them that the department expects to spend almost the whole of its allotment made for *ordinary* works and that the surrender is mainly in the expenditure on the construction of a Palace at Delhi.

My friend Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai asked why the amount of Rs. 3 lakhs paid in connection with the Cochin Harbour Scheme has been debited to 'Advances'. I regret I am not in a position to make a full statement on this subject as the correspondence is still in the confidential stage. The amount is debited to 'Advance' now because it is treated for the present as a loan to the Harbour authorities.

As regards the estimates of the coming year, one or two members were again of opinion that we have pitched up the revenue. Mr. Krishna Aiyar would have us reduce the estimates under income tax, sale of Government lands and salt. I regret I cannot accept his figures. Judging from past experience, I am sure his estimates would not turn out correct and feel that it would be safer to adopt the Government's figures.

My friend Mr. Padmanabha Pillai has asked how we have estimated Rs. 7 lakhs excess receipts under salt revenue for six and a half months while we expect to receive Rs. 4¾ lakhs only for five and a half months this year. Sir, when the departmental estimate was sent up

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[President.]

for that figure, the same disparity struck me; but it was found out that the estimate is not based mainly on an arithmetical proportion but on the basis of consumption, as could be expected from past experience. It was found that the consumption of salt is proportionately more in the first half of the year than in the second half, as the merchants would have stored up quantities of salt.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Certainly they would not.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Mr. Krishna Aiyar referred to the mystery still surrounding the 58 new schemes in the budget. Sir, I have already explained in the memorandum accompanying the budget that we have merged these items into the budget estimates in order to avoid asking for a lump sum grant in this Council. The foot-notes in the printed budget would in most cases explain what the schemes are. I need not say more on that point.

Under new possible sources of revenue, I believe it was my friend Mr. Madhava Variar who referred to the possibility of cancelling the system of refunding the tea duty to the British Government. That refund is made on account of the tea from Travancore that is exported through the British Indian ports.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Are we not realising the duty here in Travancore?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Yes, we are.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Not at the ports?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Even in respect of the tea that is exported through the British Indian ports, we realise the full duty. But we refund one-half of the duty that is levied here on such tea. In respect of tea exported through Travancore ports, the full duty is ours and nobody can have any share of it.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know why this refund is being made?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The arrangement was made some years ago. If the tea is assessed again with duty in the British Indian ports, the tea companies would have to pay double duty. To protect the companies against heavy loss, it was found necessary to grant the exemption.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Was it not originally given by this Government as a sort of contribution to the war fund?

PRESIDENT: If I may intervene in the debate, I will tell the House that the real object of the arrangement is to protect the local tea industry and to see that it is not handicapped in the competition from producers of the same article elsewhere. If you subject the same article to a double

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duty, then that industry is handicapped to that extent and cannot compete fairly in the world's markets. The refund is made solely in the interests of the tea industry of the State; and, as Mr. George said, the arrangement was made some years ago.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyattinkara*): May I know whether there are not facilities for exporting tea through the Travancore ports themselves?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The planters must avail themselves of the facilities.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether it is not possible for Government to so manage that planters will export tea through our ports and not take them to the British Indian ports and thereby force us to refund half of the duty realised?

PRESIDENT: Government cannot deflect the course of trade.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Trade goes along the natural lines.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Is it not possible to exempt Travancore tea from payment of duty in British India by the extension of some of the provisions of the Interportal Trade Convention so long as it is in force?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I cannot answer that question off-hand as it is a big matter.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I am only suggesting that.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Mr. Madhava Variar also referred to the possibility of levying duty on rubber. The objection to such a proposal is obvious. The rubber trade was till very recently in a state of collapse. The price of rubber is but just coming up; and I must say that, if a duty is levied, it will hit the trade very hard and possibly prejudice its revival. It must also be remembered that a large portion of the raw rubber that is exported from Travancore belongs to Travancoreans and not to well-to-do foreign capitalists as is perhaps imagined.

Mr. Padmanabha Pillai thinks it a financial blunder to have reduced the provision for sinking funds. Sir, I would have been the last person to suggest a reduction under this head if it were not proved beyond doubt that the reduction was absolutely justifiable. It is purely a question of mathematics. The increase in our liability necessitated an enquiry into the adequacy of our provision for sinking funds. When money is earning 5 per cent. interest generally, no one will suggest that to pay the sinking funds only 3½ per cent. is correct. So we calculated on a 5 per cent. basis. The investments already made, if continued at the same rate of interest, will amount to about Rs. 86 lakhs in 1945. The amount to be invested per annum at 5 per cent. compound interest to obtain the remaining Rs. 47 lakhs and odd at the end of 22 years is only about Rs. 1,17,000; but we have provided Rs. 1,25,000.

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[Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai.]

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I ask whether that makes provision for the possible increase of the capital liability in future years?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I have already said in my opening speech that, if the liability is increased, we shall have to make increased provision. At present we have provided for the present liability.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): In view of the fact that about Rs. 13 lakhs was the increase that was caused in one year, *viz.*, 1097, supposing the capital liability increases at that rate in a particular year, without making previous provision, will it be possible to meet such contingencies from the revenue of the year?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I believe so. That will not be difficult, because we have reduced Rs. 75,000. To restore that will not be difficult. If further provision is necessary, we shall have to make it.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Why is it reduced?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): It is absolutely unnecessary to provide more, because, by actual mathematical calculations, we found that Rs. 1,25,000 will be quite ample.

The provision made for leave allowances has been criticised by some members. Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai said it must be omitted and Mr. Madhava Variar made the curious suggestion that it should be invested in sinking funds.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): How is it curious?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I shall explain. Sir, the provision we have made for leave allowances is, I expect, somewhat in excess. But what is the good of omitting it altogether or what is the harm in retaining it? No one is going to get leave allowances except to the extent to which he is entitled under the Service Regulations. The reason for the provision I have already stated in my opening speech. It is made because we must obtain from the Council a grant for the actual requirements of the coming year. Since payment of leave allowances is governed by specific rules, even if the provision made is somewhat excessive, no one is going to benefit by it. The excess will merely lapse, it not being the Government's intention to draw upon it for any other purpose. What advantage we shall have in transferring the provision for leave allowances to sinking funds which do not require it, I am at a loss to know. And therefore I felt it was somewhat curious.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether there is any necessity for providing a larger percentage

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of leave allowances in case the Financial Secretary himself expects a considerable portion of it would lapse?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I have stated already that it is a tentative arrangement. We had no time to work out the average expenditure on leave allowances and so we follow the rates that have been adopted in Madras. But, however, it is only tentative and we can very well reduce it if necessary. Leave can be given only under certain rules. The existence of a provision does not at all affect the matter.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): If it is unnecssary, why should you provide for it?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I may say that, if I wanted merely to show a surplus, I could have very well omitted the provision for leave allowances and shown a surplus of Rs $4\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs instead of Rs. 2 lakhs.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): No. You can have omitted it and provided for some other useful and spending departments.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): All the requirements of the spending departments have been provided for.

Another matter which has come in for consideration and criticism is our present position regarding our railways. Mr. Padmanabha Pillai has again raised the question as to why we cannot pay off the debentures from our sinking funds. I am making a full statement on the question in reply to one of his interpellations in this session of the Council; but I shall anticipate that. The fact is that under what is known as the Travancore Contract which was executed between the Secretary of State (on behalf of the British Government and ourselves) and the South Indian Railway Company, we cannot claim to repay the amount of capital raised for the extension until the principal contract would fall due, *i. e.*, in 1945. We may, of course, buy some of these debentures although with some difficulty and in driblets; but it will amount only to an investment of the sinking fund in railway bonds instead of in Government of India securities. When the debentures fall due for payment, we shall have either to receive back the money or agree to renew it for a further period as would be decided by the Secretary of State. If the former course is adopted, we shall have again to look out for fresh investments for our money; and to get that money back, we may perhaps have to incur loss on account of exchange. If on the other hand the bonds are renewed, there are several disadvantages. The renewals are made for short periods and the rate of interest will fluctuate and usually the interest for money in the London market is less than the interest in India Here our money is in long term 6 and 5 per cent. loans and we shall not suffer from a fluctuation of interest. Again, we shall have to undergo the risk of an adverse exchange to transfer the interest from England to India.

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[Mr. K. George.]

I hope Mr. Padmanabha Pillai will be satisfied with this explanation. As regards the question why we did not take advantage of the favourable exchange of 1917, I must admit that I did not and, even now, do not know the quotation for these railway bonds. But I must say that I asked the Railway Company for the information and they were not in a position to supply the information either.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I ask whether it is not the duty of the Financial Secretary to acquaint himself with the information?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Apart from the question of duty, I might inform the member that I did refer the question to the Agent of the South Indian Railway Company and he has wired to say that he is unable to say anything because he does not know. That information can be had only if you get down the financial papers; and the Financial Secretary has not thought it worth while to go in for railway bonds instead of the Government of India pro-notes and therefore he did not make any such attempt. Besides, what would have been the result? We would have in the first place difficulties to purchase the bonds and until we purchased, the money would have been idle or only earning nominal interest; secondly when the bonds matured we would have had to continue the investment in London at lower rates of interest or accepted payment of the amount and re-transferred it at the present rates of exchange, losing thereby all that we would have gained by the favourable exchange.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): When the value of the rate was high, could not the information be got from the Secretary of State for India?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): It might possibly have been obtained; but by the time information came; the price would still further have fluctuated.

MR K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): What is the maximum time that would be required for cabling to him?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): During the war it was difficult to send direct cables.

PRESIDENT: You cannot cable direct.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Mr. Padmanabha Pillai asked why rolling stock was not purchased out of depreciation funds. So fas as I am aware, according to the system of railway accounts, railway companies meet the expenditure on ordinary repairs, renewals and replacements only from their revenue accounts and incur all expenditure on extensions, material improvements and new rolling stock out of capital. To my knowledge, no depreciation fund is provided.

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Mr. Kochukunju Pillai and certain others stated that one reason for the railway loss is the increase in railway fares. I can contradict them in that. The passenger and goods traffic earnings have shown improvement year after year; but not proportionately to the increase in the fares. However, the raising of the fares has not contributed to any fall in the gross earnings.

MR M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Can you give any figures?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I have given the figures in the speech or perhaps it is in the memorandum.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Is it increase in the fares or profit?

PRESIDENT: Gross earnings.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Gross earnings have not been less. I have the figures.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Have you got information regarding the income derived from the various fares?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Is there not an appreciable reduction in the income derived from the second class fares?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Yes. But it does not mean that the gross earnings are less.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): That could have been made up elsewhere.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Mr. Mackie asked whether the Rs. 15½ lakhs paid was for new rolling stock obtained for the Travancore railway and if so, whether the Government knew if the rolling stock is used exclusively on our line. The amount represents the cost of the new rolling stock got exclusively for the Travancore section. As regards using it on our line, the Government are corresponding with the Railway authorities.

The expenditure on salaries has again come in for adverse comment. Sir, the subject was discussed threadbare on several occasions in this House and therefore I think it is not necessary for me to dwell at length on that subject. I would refer only to one aspect of the question. The total expenditure on salaries exclusive of leave allowances is Rs. 76½ lakhs. Out of this, Education alone consumes Rs. 23½ lakhs or about 30 per cent. of the total expenditure and the Judicial Department spends Rs. 9 lakhs. The reasons for the large expenditure under the former are well known. In 1088, our total expenditure on education was only Rs. 13 lakhs which itself showed an increase of Rs. 3 lakhs over the expenditure of 1087. The increase is due to the opening of more departmental schools and the revision of salaries of teachers, particularly of those

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[Mr. K. George.]

in primary schools. I may also say that educational expenditure must always consist mainly of the pay of the teaching staff. Another reason why expenditure on salaries in the Education Department in this State is so large compared with British India and Mysore is that in those countries a large proportion of the expenditure is met by local boards and municipalities. Here the entire expenditure is met by Government. I refer to public schools only.

As regards expenditure on the administration of justice, it is due chiefly to the large volume of litigation in the country. Government are not desirous of keeping up the expenditure; but such expenditure is inevitable in the interests of the litigant public, and the increase in the complexity of litigation. The expenditure in other departments, excepting Agriculture and Industries, has not increased to any large extent in recent years. In the P. W. D., the expenditure is very much less than in previous years. The reorganisation of the Excise Department has brought in a saving of Rs. 38,000. In this connection, I would ask if it is reasonable to expect that, when the revenue increases, when new departments are created and old departments enlarged, the expenditure on establishment should go down.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know if Government have considered the recommendations of the Salaries Committee on the question of the retrenchment of offices.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): That was answered when we discussed the resolution moved by Mr. Kunjitonman. I said then that many of the proposals of the Salaries Committee were carried into effect.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know whether there was not a proposal to combine the offices of the Darbar Physician and the Sanitary Commissioner.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I am not aware of any such proposal.

If we want to collect more revenue, if we want more schools, more hospitals, better equipped Agricultural and Industrial departments and so on, we should have to spend larger amounts on establishment.

In conclusion, I have to say only one word. My friend Mr. Madhava Variar asked what Government have done for the moral and material advancement of the masses. I cannot now describe at length all that the Government are doing in these directions. I shall confine myself to a few instances. We are spending considerably large amounts year after year on education. In the P. W. D., we are spending more on communications. We are extending medical relief by encouraging both the western and the Ayurvedic systems of medicine.

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We are increasing the issue of agricultural loans and a scheme of industrial loans has been introduced. We are proposing to give substantial concessions to a State-aided Bank for Travancore. We are developing both the Agricultural and Industrial departments and increasing their usefulness to the people. Again, the co-operative movement is being pushed forward. These are some only of the useful activities of Government. Many more could be mentioned if I had time.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I want to ask a question. Will the Government consider the desirability of having a financial year separate from the *Kollam* year?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): That cannot be answered off-hand. All I can say is that we have not yet considered the question.

The Council adjourned at 6-32 P. M. to meet again at 11-30 A. M. on the Monday following.

S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR.
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

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